

Hafa Adai!

'BOOST program already ended, but evaluation is ongoing' **PAGE 3**  
No judge yet for ex-governor Torres' case. **PAGE 3**

\$1

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TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2023

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## Peavey terminated, escorted out



The price of fuel in the CNMI continues to fluctuate, with oil companies lowering gas prices just weeks after hiking them up. Here, a Mobil Oil Marianas price board displays the new lower price of gas.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

### Gas prices down 10 cents

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The recent trend in fuel prices is causing a minor whiplash among drivers, with gas prices down 10 cents yesterday, just a little over two weeks since a recent increase.

Mobil Oil Marianas took

the lead again, raising its prices late yesterday afternoon, while Shell Marianas is expected to follow suit today. The two oil companies typically mirror each other's price adjustments.

With this new oil price dip, Mobil now charges \$5.31 per gallon of its Extra

See GAS on Page 4

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board of directors chair pro tem Janice A. Tenorio has



Peavey Jr.

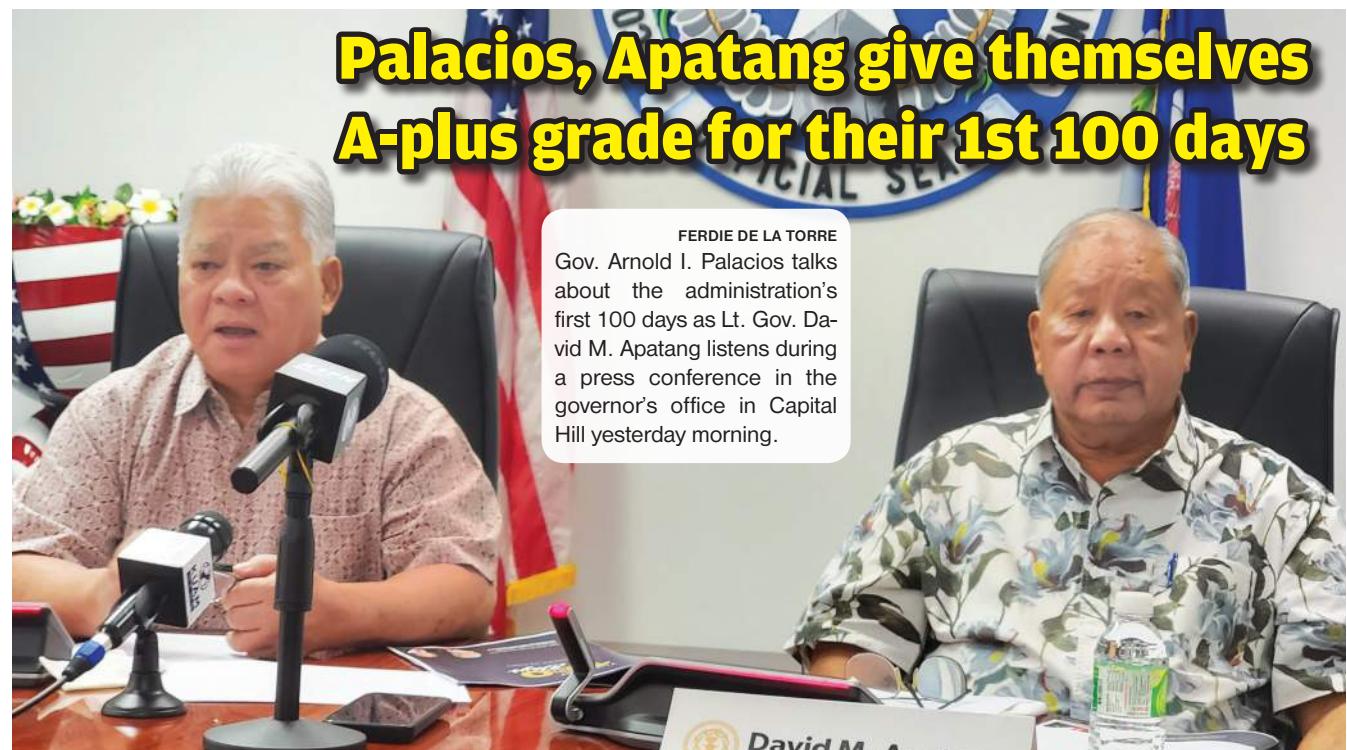


Tenorio

» **'Termination not a board action, but Tenorio's decision'**

terminated the employment of acting CUC executive director Dr. Dallas M. Peavey Jr. for cause.

See PEAVEY on Page 4



By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

In rating their own perfor-

mance in the first 100 days of their administration, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang are giving

themselves an "A-plus" grade.

Speaking at a press conference in the governor's conference room yesterday, Palacios

and Apatang, who reached their first 100 days in office last

See PALACIOS on Page 4

### WITH CANCELLATION OF MSA CONTRACT Plan for CNMI-based int'l airline goes pfft!

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The cancellation of Marianas Pacific Express LLC's contract with the CNMI govern-

ment, which ultimately led to the demise of the fledgling Marianas Southern Airways, has also resulted in the loss of what could have been the first international airline

based in the CNMI.

Marianas Pacific Express founder and president Keith Stewart said they are no longer pursuing the venture to

See PLAN on Page 4

**'TOUCHBACK'  
COUNTDOWN**

Days until  
'touchback rule'  
takes effect on  
Sept. 30, 2023:

**158**

### INSIDE



#### BUSINESS

Show your appreciation during Administrative Professionals Week at Aqua Resort Club.

PAGE 11



#### WORLD

Ukrainian military forces have established positions on the eastern side of the Dnieper River.

PAGE 13



#### LIFE & STYLE

"The Super Mario Bros. Movie" continues leading ticket sales for the third straight weekend.

PAGE 15



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# Local

## Peavey: Yumul's action was outright unprofessional

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

"When you owe \$1.2 million, you must pay."

This was the response Friday of then-acting Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Dr. Dallas M. Peavey Jr. when asked about the statement of acting Department of Public Works secretary Ray N. Peavey that he questions why DPW was being "targeted" among other governmental customers of CUC.



Peavey

Peavey, who has since been terminated from his job, denies targeting DPW and stated that they responded to Yumul's final notification to CUC that they're working to repair and replace roads that were damaged by

Yumul that he questions why DPW was being "targeted" among other governmental customers of CUC.

He informed Yumul in a letter dated April 19 that CUC recently awarded two contracts for islandwide paving restoration in the amount of \$885,600 to complete pending road repairs as well as perform future repairs. The notice of intent was issued on April 5, 2023. CUC anticipates a notice to proceed

» **CUC awarded \$885K to complete pending, future road repairs**

» **'16% of CUC road repairs caused by DPW cutting into CUC's water, sewer piping'**

CUC projects.

Yumul addressed the notification to Peavey for CUC to address the violations for its road trenching projects that, according to DPW, create significant safety concerns for the public.

to be issued in May 2023.

Last April 12, Yumul issued the final notification to CUC over its alleged repeated violation of not restoring road that it had cut up or dug up for its projects. Yumul addressed the notification to Peavey for CUC to address the violations for its road trenching projects that, according to DPW, create significant safety concerns for the public.

tained by *Saipan Tribune*.

Peavey said the projects that Yumul questioned are budgeted expenditures and therefore reliant upon the collection of monies that are owed and due to CUC in order to perform essential business activities, including road restoration.

He said the fact is that DPW has failed to pay its utility bills for services provided by CUC.

Peavey said the current past due balance owed by DPW, as of March 31, 2023, equates to \$1,122,565.

Moreover, he said, 16% of CUC road repairs are caused by DPW cutting into and/or through CUC water and sewer piping.

Peavey said that, since accepting responsibilities at CUC, he has set a priority to fulfill their obligations despite the refusal of DPW and other government agencies at performing their contractual and fiduciary responsibilities.

Last Wednesday, Peavey issued notices of disconnection to DPW and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. due to unpaid power and water services amounting to \$1.2 million and \$53.6 million as of March 31, 2023, respectively.

Last April 19, Peavey wrote Yumul to express disappointment upon reading DPW's final notification in the April 14 publication of *Saipan Tribune*. Peavey said that Yumul issued the final notification without first sending a letter or other direct contact from him.

"While [CUC] acknowledges numerous outstanding road restoration projects as the result of failures on behalf of previous CUC leadership, publication of such statements prior to engaging in constructive dialogue is outright unprofessional and can only be assumed to be the means of advancing personal agenda or compensating for inadequacies at the Department of Public Works," he said in the letter, a copy of which was ob-

He said during this process CUC staff have regularly informed DPW of their progress in obtaining outstanding permits, evaluating work, and developing and awarding contracts with the intent of maintaining a professional and cooperative working relationship, again, in spite of DPW's failure to pay its utility bills which are used to perform pavement repairs.

## Project PROA to host summer bridge camp for HS students, NMC freshmen

Northern Marianas College's Project PROA (Promotion Retention Opportunities Advancement) will be hosting a two-week summer program called Camp PROA that prepares high school students for college success while allowing them to strengthen their ties to their cultural heritage with various activities and field trips.

The program is open to high school juniors, seniors, and recent graduates who self-identify as Pacific Islander or Asian American, per grant requirements. Interested individuals must be U.S. citizens. Camp PROA is aimed at helping students be college- and career-ready through various engaging activities and opportunities in STEM fields and more.

The camp will be held on the NMC campus from July 3 to July 14, 2023 on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, simultaneously. Participation in the

camp is absolutely free, with breakfast, lunch, and afternoon snacks provided. The camp will conclude with a trip to Managaha and Saipan for the Camp PROA Banquet.

Participants will engage in academic and career exploration sessions in the morning and cultural activities in the afternoon.

Priority will be given to students who submit a fall 2023 admissions application (accessible at [www.marianas.edu](http://www.marianas.edu)) by May 31, 2023.

To register, interested participants can visit <https://tinyurl.com/campopro2023>. For more information, contact Project PROA via phone at (670) 237-6776/6795/6889 or via email at [projectproa@marianas.edu](mailto:projectproa@marianas.edu).

Project PROA is a federally-funded program under the U.S. Department of Education's Asian American Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution grants. (NMC)

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## 'BOOST program already ended, but evaluation is ongoing'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_deletorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios said yesterday that the Building

Optimism, Opportunities, and Stability Together, or BOOST grant program of the previous administration, is already ended or has been stopped.

### No judge appointed yet for ex-governor's case

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Guam Supreme Court has yet to appoint a judge to hear former governor Ralph DLG Torres' criminal case, which is set for trial on June 5.

The Guam Supreme Court, which has been asked to appoint another Guam judge to preside over the criminal case against Torres, has yet to announce a replacement for Guam Superior Court judge Alberto Tolentino, who recently recused himself from the case.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that the CNMI Supreme Court has asked the Guam Supreme court to appoint a replacement for Tolentino to ensure that a conflict-free judge is appointed to preside over the high-profile trial.

Last April 19, Tolentino issued what's referred to as a *sua sponte* order recusing himself. He did not elaborate but noted that the recusal is due to ongoing health issues.

The former governor's jury trial is set to start on

June 5, 2023.

Tolentino's recusal left the Torres case without a judge once again as Tolentino was only appointed by the Supreme Court because all the CNMI's judges recused themselves from hearing the case almost immediately after it was filed.

The OA Office of the Attorney General has charged Torres with 12 counts of misconduct in public office and one count of theft relating to the issuance of airline tickets for business class, first class, or other premium class travel for himself and/or his wife.

A little over a week prior to Tolentino's recusal, Torres' defense team filed two motions for reconsideration: a reconsideration of the court's previous decision to deny dismissal of the case, and reconsideration of the court's decision denying the team's request to disqualify the OAG from prosecuting this case.

The prosecution has filed two separate motions opposing both motions.

In response to *Saipan Tribune*'s inquiry about BOOST program, Palacios, however, disclosed that the evaluation and the assessment of the program's effectiveness is still ongoing.

He said the Department of Finance has reached out to all recipients and that the program's administrator, Bank of Saipan, is also obligated under the agreement that the Commonwealth signed with them to do just that too.

"...It got terminated right after the election or in Decem-

ber," the governor said.

Palacios said Finance is reaching out to some of the recipients to make sure that the government's financial assistance that was provided under that program are being used as originally intended.

"And I think even Bank of Saipan, the manager of that program, is also obligated to do that to make sure that those funds didn't just disappear for nothing," he said.

Palacios said they want to make sure that the funds are

actually being used by businesses that opened up or existing businesses that received those funds are using the money according to the business plans and purposes that they were intended to.

Palacios said they also reached out to the federal government Treasury and even the Office of Insular Affairs, asking them to assist the government in forensic audits on the way the BOOST program was rolled out, whether the practices were legal, legitimate, and reasonable.

The governor disclosed that they just received word that

federal partners will be visiting the CNMI next month to discuss the terms and the scope of work for the forensic audits. "It's a work in progress, so to speak," he said.

Last March, acting Finance secretary Tracy B. Norita they said are looking at recoupment of funds from businesses that were not supposed to receive BOOST money.

BOOST is a project of the previous Office of the Governor, Finance, and Department of Commerce that aimed to provide financial assistance to CNMI businesses and non-profit organizations.

## Team on Saipan to study WWII underwater heritage

### » Team of experts, locals, and veterans to share cutting edge research while on the island for project

A NOAA Ocean Exploration grant is funding Ships of Exploration and Discovery Research Inc. and East Carolina University on a project on Saipan. The team will study and share research on World War II underwater cultural heritage during the project from April 23 to May 14.

Researchers will use innovative

### ON THE NET

- For more information about the grant: <https://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/explorations/2023-expeditions/welcome.html#pacificBattlefieldsExpedition>
- Follow along on social media: <https://www.facebook.com/shipsofdiscovery>
- For more information about the battle for Saipan underwater sites: <https://sites.ecu.edu/pmht/>
- SHIPS: <http://shipsofdiscovery.org/>
- ECU: <https://maritimestudies.ecu.edu/>

vative technology to document sites, collaborate with local stakeholders on how to best manage them, include veterans as citizen science divers to gather conservation data, and develop public outreach materials for local schools.

Training for local veterans interested in participating in

the project is set for May 3, 2023 at the American Memorial Park.

Additionally, a free public talk titled "What's in Saipan's Lagoon?" will be held on May 9 at the American Memorial Park from 5:30pm to 6:30pm.

The battle for Saipan in the Mariana Islands, code-named Operation TEARAWAY, was

the largest U.S. amphibious invasion in the Pacific Theater by June/July 1944. The operation involved thousands of troops from all branches of the military and an imposing number of vessels, vehicles, and weapons. The battle for Saipan is considered of such significance that large portions of the island, including the World War II landing beaches, were listed on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places and designated a U.S. National Historical Landmark in 1985.

The location and investigation of underwater sites is essential to holistically iden-

See TEAM on Next Page

 **COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION**

## INVITATION FOR BIDS

**CUC-IFB-23-013**

### RELOCATION OF EXISTING 0.065 MG MODULAR TANK IN KAGMAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Relocation of Existing 0.065 MG Modular Tank in Kagman, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of furnishing all labor, supervision, equipment and materials for the relocation of an existing water tank within San Vicente Water tank site to the existing Kagman booster pump station site. Work includes, but is not limited to disassembly and relocation of an existing 65,000-gallon modular fiberglass potable water tank; demolition and disposal of existing temporary tank plinth at San Vicente Tank site; construction of tank foundation; installation of relocated tank, piping and appurtenances; and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

*This project is funded by a grant from the us Public Law 117-2 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA).*

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **120 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **April 12, 2023 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-23-013, Relocation of the Existing 0.065 MG Modular Water Tank in Kagman", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 2, 2023**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 19, 2023** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email at [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to Ms. Alley Reyes, Project Engineer via email at [alley.reyes@cucgov.org](mailto:alley.reyes@cucgov.org) and Ms. Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Senior Administrative Technician via email at [christie.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:christie.sablan@cucgov.org)

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

**DR. DALLAS M. PEAVEY, JR.**  
Acting Executive Director

**MANNY B. SABLAN**  
Purchasing Administrator

 **Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**

## INVITATION FOR BIDS

**CUC-IFB-23-018**

### OFFICE SPACE LEASE FOR CUC ROTA's ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS & OPERATIONS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the lease of a suitable office and operations support facility for the Headquarters of CUC's Administration and Operations on the island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposed office space must comply with American Disabilities Act (ADA), DPW, OSHA and CNMI Zoning regulation.

The IFB package may be obtained at the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration with CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package will be emailed to the registered Proponents email ID. For registration inquiries, please email [Marcela Tenorio](mailto:marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org), CUC Senior Administrative Technician via email address, [marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org](mailto:marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org).

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-23-018, Office Space Lease for CUC Rota's Administrative Functions and Operations." to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 23, 2023**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 2, 2023** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to Alvin King, CUC Rota Resident Manager at email address [alvin.king@cucgov.org](mailto:alvin.king@cucgov.org) and Marcela Tenorio at [marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org](mailto:marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

**DR. DALLAS M. PEAVEY JR.**  
Acting Executive Director

**MANNY B. SABLAN**  
Purchasing Administrator

# Scheduled power service interruptions in San Vicente

There will be a scheduled power service interruption in San Vicente (Katbon Rd., Baranda Ln., Gulek Ln., Gadde Dr., Latte Ln., Metati Pl., Taga Dr., Monitor Pl., and Lemmok Pl.) on the following dates:

**TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2023**, from 8:30am to 1:30pm

■ **Purpose:** For the line crew to install a new wooden power pole, to reframe three primary power poles, and to pull 5-spans of primary lines.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2023**, from 8:30am to 1:30pm

■ **Purpose:** For the line crew to pull 6-spans

of primary lines and to reframe three primary power poles.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2023**, from 8:30am to 11:30am

■ **Purpose:** For the line crew to connect the jumpers phase by phase, and then redistribute power loads to customers.

No water wells, wastewater facilities nor traffic lights will be affected.

For more information, contact the CUC Hotline at (670) 236-4333 or monitor our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation](http://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation) for the latest updates. (PR)

## PEAVEY

From Page 1

Tenorio informed Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang in a letter that she and CUC's Human Resources staff became aware that Peavey had "exhibited dishonesty and a lack of candor" in his application to serve as deputy director for electric power systems.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that two CUC compliance officers escorted Peavey out from the CUC conference room at the Joeten Dandan Building during lunch time.

"This dishonesty severely called into question his ability to serve as acting executive director, a position which he expressed the desire to fill in a permanent capacity," said Tenorio in a letter to Palacios and Apatang.

Tenorio did not elaborate on what she meant by "apparent dishonesty and lack of candor" in Peavey's application.

According to online news report dated August 2022, an indictment was filed against Peavey in Texas for three felony charges involving falsification of travel expenses and invoices. He reportedly pleaded guilty to all charges and received a deferred adjudication of guilty. He was placed on provision for five years.

Deferred adjudication refers to a judge-ordered community supervision that allows a defendant to accept responsibility for a crime without an actual conviction placed on the record.

According to news reports, the case was subsequently dismissed in 2014 because Peavey had paid his restitution and probation fees.

*Saipan Tribune* had asked then-CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho a few months ago about Peavey's Texas case, and Camacho stated that they're aware of it, but their understanding was that it has been dismissed. Camacho did not elaborate.

Last Feb. 21, Tenorio designated Peavey, who is the deputy director for electric power systems, as acting executive director until further notice, after Camacho resigned.

Tenorio presided over the board's regular board meeting Friday in the CUC conference room.

During Friday's meeting, Peavey discussed his executive director's report.

This comes five days after Peavey issued notices of disconnection to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and Department of Public Works due to unpaid power and water services amounting to \$53.6 million and \$1.12 million as of March 31, 2023, respectively.

Tenorio said the roles of both the executive director and deputy director for power systems carry with them the highest expectations of integrity, accountability, and responsibility.

Tenorio said that when it became apparent that Peavey had failed to live up to these expectations, she

took action, with the backing of the Office of the Attorney General, to terminate Peavey, and "protect the organization."

Assistant attorney general Hunter Hunt was present as counsel for the board during the board hearing Friday. He was also present in the CUC conference room yesterday.

Tenorio said it is deeply regrettable that this "revelation" comes at such an inopportune time for CUC and the Commonwealth in general.

She noted that CUC is under federal oversight by the U.S. Department of Justice and Environmental Protection Agency, pursuant to two district court-stipulated orders.

"Mr. Peavey's conduct would not have been acceptable to the EPA, nor is it acceptable to us," the chairwoman pro tem said.

**A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)**

## GAS

From Page 1

fuel from \$5.41. Mobil's Supreme fuel also saw a reduction from \$5.86 per gallon to \$5.76 while diesel fuel went from \$5.73 per gallon to \$5.58.

Prior to this decrease, local oil companies raised prices from \$5.26 per gallon of regular fuel to \$5.41. Prior to that, gas went from \$5.11 per gallon of regular fuel to \$5.26.

Some local motorists appear frustrated by the fluctuating fuel prices while others seem unbothered.

According to a 38-year-old motorist, he would rather see prices at a steady rate than increasing or decreasing every couple of weeks.

"It's like they're playing around with these prices. One week it's up, the next week it's down. Just leave it alone. If it's high, keep it there; if it's low, keep it there. The con-

stant change just gives people false hope," he said.

Another motorist said she's always happy to see a decrease in fuel prices, even if it is just a few cents.

"I don't really care much about the gas prices increasing or decreasing because it's only a few cents. I mean if it was like a dollar, then yes, I would be more bothered. However, I can say I'm happy for whatever relief our community is given, even if it's just a few cents," she said.

ments, and different programs in the Commonwealth.

Palacios said when they were first inaugurated, they all knew the situation that the CNMI faced, the fiscal challenge, and the real dilemma that the CNMI is in. He said they spent a lot of time and effort in assessing and evaluating the situation and figuring out how to address the issues.

"And we were in a crisis, basically, and we still are. ... But I think we've gone beyond that and have started addressing the issues. And that's basically for the past 60 to 70 days is what we have been doing," the governor said.

After the initial assessment, he said, they immediately went to cost-cutting measures that the administration had to make. And it wasn't just the cost-cutting measures. It included the revision of the fiscal year 2023 budget, which took out the American Rescue Plan Act funding from the budget and the expenditure plan. He said they had the fiscal response team, which included the Legislature, the Department of Finance, Office of Management and Budget, and other staff, work on that.

"We look forward to tangible and concrete results in a matter of six months," the governor said.

Palacios said he was very upfront and very honest with the federal government.

"I told them straight out. I didn't hide anything. And this is where we're at. This is the help that we need. And I left it at that," he said.

The governor said the federal government has been responsive, as well as Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP), who has helped put together packages to help and assist different agencies, different depart-

ted the revised budget for fiscal year 2023 during the first part of March. The Legislature passed last Wednesday a revised budget bill.

"These 100 days have been very challenging and, in some cases, very humbling. ... But, at the end of the day, we have to make some very critical or sometimes controversial and unpopular decisions," he said.

Apatang said they also continue to strengthen relationships with the federal partners. He said the governor met with and provided testimony in the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources regarding the state of the CNMI.

He said Palacios also met with representatives of the White House, the Department of Defense, Homeland Security, Department of the Interior, U.S. Customs and Immigration Services, and other agencies.

Apatang said Palacios, along with Sablan presented the CNMI's challenges and request for federal assistance at the senior plenary session of the Interagency Group on Insular Areas.

**A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)**

## PLAN

From Page 1

launch an international airline. It was originally envisioned to be based on Saipan and fly regular flights to Australia, Japan, South Korea, and the Philippines.

"We are not pursuing international airline service any longer. MSA's contract cancellation caused our international airline partner to withdraw their interest in the CNMI," he said.

The CNMI administration terminated its \$8-million contract with Marianas Pacific Express, the operator of startup interisland airline Marianas Southern Airways, last February, saying it doesn't have the money to pay the contract.

Initially, Marianas Pacific Express was working on launching an international airline based on Saipan. The decision of lone interisland airline Star Marianas Air to lessen its number of flights prompted the previous CNMI administration to persuade Marianas Pacific Express to create an interisland airline first. The original plan for an international airline now appears to have been shelved following the cancellation of MSA's contract.

Stewart says he is disappointed at not being able to make this happen for the CNMI now.

"Personally, I am extremely disappointed that everything fell apart after three years of hard work. But it's only time and money. We did have an amazing opportunity to create a path forward for the CNMI—even had flight times and slots scheduled in Australia beginning in July. I don't know what happened

or exactly why it all went this way, but it was a valuable lesson for me. Personally, getting out of the airline business has made my life much simpler, but, as I told a friend today, 'I lost money, but the people of the CNMI lost so much more.' I am not resentful or upset. In contrast, I wish the administration the very best and hope they find another way to turn around the economy soon. I love the CNMI and the people here. I just have a heavy heart and am sorry we could not have made this happen," he said.

MSA vice president William Giles explained that after the cancellation of MSA's contract, their international airline partners found the venture too risky.

"As of now, we are not doing anything with the international [airline]. After our MSA contract was cancelled, our international partner decided it was too risky to continue without any type of guarantee," he said.

What could have been the CNMI's first home-based international airline, Northern Marianas Airways, was officially introduced to members of the public back in October 2022.

The airline had been in the works for three years before it was officially debuted to the public last October with a tour of a Boeing 757-200 aircraft, the same type of aircraft that would've been used as the airlines' daily driver once it had officially launched flights.

The Boeing 757-200 aircraft had 16 business class seats, 36 premium economy seats and 129 economy seats.

The airline had initially planned on launching its first flight in the second quarter of this year.

## TEAM

From Page 3

tifying, analyzing, managing, and preserving the full battlefield. This project seeks to utilize emerging technologies to explore, locate, and characterize the underwater cultural heritage of the offshore battlefield, including the first Pacific war seadrome, invasion staging area, and potential environmental hazards from

post-war dumping.

This project is a collaborative effort between non-profit SHIPS, ECU, Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, Task Force Dagger Special Operations Foundation, the Florida Public Archaeology Network at University of West Florida, the CNMI Historic Preservations Office, and Saipan researchers. Other partners include the Japanese organization APPARATUS and the Western Australian Museum. (PR)

# Standup comic Ron Josol leaves crowd of over 300 in stitches

By LEIGH GASES  
leigh\_gases@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

After an absence of 10 years, comic Ron Josol made his way back to Saipan and treated a crowd of over 300 at the Kensington Hall of the Kensington Hotel Saipan to a comedy show they shall soon not forget last Saturday night.

No material was off-limits for this Filipino-Canadian comic. Josol, a son of Filipino parents, told stories of how he ate *balut* (cooked fertilized duck egg—a Filipino street food) in elementary school on a dare and won \$100, and also shared a raunchy story of the time he dated a “cougar” as an 18-year-old.

Throughout the night, he was not afraid to throw out

racial stereotypes and raunchy comedic material that engaged the audience and had some of them red in the face either from laughter or embarrassment.

Local comics Netty Cee and Chynaman performed their equally hilarious opening acts and Santi “Big Boy” Sablan served as the emcee throughout the night. Before Netty Cee and Chynaman came out though, a member of the audience, Fedora Camacho, was pulled up to the stage and gave a few minutes of improvisational standup comedy of her own—and won \$100.

Laughter and happiness rang throughout the night. “Stand Up Comedy with Ron Josol” was made possible by Marpac. As part of its celebra-

tion of its 50th anniversary, the company donated a portion of the proceeds from VIP table sales to Make-A-Wish Guam & CNMI, which is dedicated to supporting children with critical illnesses.

Jay Santos, a board member of the Make-A-Wish CNMI, thanked Marpac, the other sponsors, and the audience before Josol’s main act.

Chynaman, for his act, dropped it like it’s hot and almost twerked on the dance floor with his walk-up song, then corrected himself and made like a man—fist bumping men sitting in the front rows.

He then proceeded to share his explicit “fantasies” of being on a stranded island with Billy Grow—whose wife was

in attendance. In the end, before the climax of his story, a ship came out to rescue them—much to the disappointment of Chynaman and was greeted with screams of laughter from the crowd.

Ohren Ohry from First Hawaiian Bank said about the show, “I liked the experience. It’s nice to have an event such as this being brought to Saipan. One of the things I enjoyed about the show was that we could relate to his jokes, given the fact that we have such a diverse community and we embrace each other’s culture.”

Marpac resident manager Guy Pudney said he was very pleased with the turnout as well as the positive feedback from the crowd. He and Santos thanked everyone who watched the show, the sponsors Bud Light and Marpac, Bank of Guam, Shell, Power 99, Ideal Marketing, and Steve Shimizu.

“It was for a great cause, it was a great show with a lot of laughter, and we want to do it again. On behalf of Marpac and our 50th anniversary, we’re really glad to bring this show to Saipan and to benefit a great nonprofit organization,” Pudney said.

Josol told *Saipan Tri-*



LEIGH GASES

Filipino-Canadian comic Ron Josol puts the crowd of over 300 on a laugh trip last Saturday evening in his last stop of his 14-country world tour at the Kensington Hall of the Kensington Hotel Saipan.

*bune* after the show that the crowd was bigger than when he came 10 years ago. “The crowd was a different energy—it’s half-Asia and half-America so it’s exactly who I am. The crowd was unbelievable and we felt like family.”

Chynaman said the evening “turned out great. People came out to see the comedians and, at the same time, I think the bond was the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Everyone enjoyed it and thank you to our supporters.”

## Rota bookmobile nears reality; JKPL is also reaching out to San Antonio

By CHRYSSTAL MARINO  
chrystal\_marino@saipantribune.com  
CORRESPONDENT

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang signed three proclamations at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library last Friday to recognize the benefits of public libraries and the devoted effort and work of librarians throughout country, in particular the important role the JKPL plays in the CNMI community.

The three proclamations separately designates the celebration of National Library Week, National Library Workers’ Day, and Library Outreach Day in the CNMI.

During the signing, Palacios said that \$100,000 will be allocated to JKPL so it could acquire a bookmobile for Rota.

JKPL library director Erlinda Naputi later explained that the Rota library—AC Atalig Memorial Library—is located further from the community, making it less accessible to children, hence the need for a bookmobile, which Naputi said was first suggested by former Rota mayor Efraim Atalig.

She said the Rota library is actually a converted space within the Rota Mayor’s Office. “They have a smaller conference room...that we opened up in 2011 as a public library for the community. However, the location of the AC Atalig Memorial Library is really out of place. It’s in the center of the island and the villages are so far away,” she said.

With a bookmobile, Naputi said the children and the community can avail the same opportunities Saipan has.

Naputi said that Atalig had told her that if there’s an opportunity for a bookmobile for Rota, that would be a great way to promote the library.

As soon as the new Rota



Joining the celebration of National Library Week, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang sign three proclamations recognizing National Library Week, National Library Workers’ Day, and Library Outreach Day, during a signing ceremony at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library in Susupe last Friday.

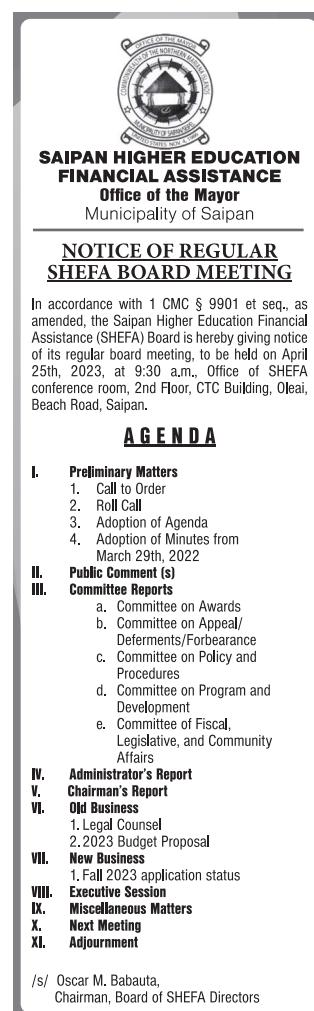
CHRYSSTAL MARINO

bookmobile financing is a done deal, Naputi said they will be working with Rota Mayor Aubry Hocog to hold a contest where Rota artists can design their bookmobile. The winning art will be incorporated in the design for the bookmobile, before shipping it to Rota. “We’re so excited and I’m so thankful that Gov. Palacios is actually going to pull through with this much needed bookmobile on Rota,” she said.

Naputi also said they are hard at work in bringing a library to San Antonio on Saipan as well. She shared that having grown up in the village, the place is close to her heart and she saw a great response from the kids every time JKPL would bring the bookmobile to the village.

“I grew up there and...I know the kids need it. Based on our outreach with the bookmobile whenever we go out...the San Antonio area is one of the highly used, with the highest numbers. So I worked hard and worked with the team to secure some funding.” She said they are still working on changing the name of the current facility from Fernando Benavente Memorial Center to its original name, Fernando M

Benavente Library, before they officially unveil it. “For now, the facility is open and functioning. The kids love it, you should see the kids when they are there.”



Eli D. Cabrera

Administrator

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality

Division of Coastal Resources Management  
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315  
www.dcrm.gov.mp



Richard V. Salas

Director, DCRM

## NOTICE OF CRM PUBLIC HEARING DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (Action Agency) DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS (Owner) SUGAR DOCK RECONSTRUCTION & DREDGING PROJECT

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the following project:

**CRM Major Siting Application No. CRM-MS2023-0006** – The Departments of Public Works (DPW) and Public Lands (DPL) are proposing to reconstruct the Sugar Dock and boat launching ramp facilities situated on public land identified as Lot No. 058 H 02 in Susupe, Saipan. The public property contains an area of about 14,919 square feet or 0.34 acres.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled on **Thursday, May 18, 2023, at 5:00PM**, at the DCRM Learning Center 3rd Floor, Suite 301, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

Virtual public participation is available via video conferencing through Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/6706648315>. Our Zoom meeting access code may change, please call the DCRM Permitting Office at (670) 664-8300 for connection assistance at least one-day prior to the public hearing date.

If you are unable to attend virtually or in-person, written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Permitting Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, or sent by fax at 664-8315, or by email at [ssablan@dcrm.gov.mp](mailto:ssablan@dcrm.gov.mp). The project file is open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed project. Please contact Ms. Sam Sablan at the DCRM Permitting Office at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Sugar Dock Reconstruction and Dredging project.

/s/ Richard V. Salas  
Director  
Division of Coastal Resources Management

# NMC-CREES boosts CNMI resilience with DRAFA program

As part of the continuing efforts to enhance the ability of the CNMI community to recover from disasters, the Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Services of the Northern Marianas College recently trained and certified 35 residents in Disaster Response Advanced First Aid.

The newly trained participants are now well equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to identify and respond to common first aid, emergency, and serious medical situations in a disaster, as well as other austere environments.

Dr. Todd Miner of the University of Colorado School of Medicine - Department of Emergency Medicine, Wilderness Med-

icine Section was the senior instructor of the event.

"It's going to give people the confidence and the skills to be able to respond and to make a difference with somebody who's having perhaps the worst day of their life," Miner said, referring to the training.

According to Miner, the eight-hour class on DRAFA is not complicated.

"It's short and sweet and it gives you some really powerful hands-on tools that can make a huge difference when the next typhoon hits or when someone has an accident at a family picnic," Miner said. "[With this training,] you'll know how to respond and you'll feel confident to do so."

These training emphasized

on preparation, prevention, assessment, and self treatment of illness and/or injury by providing lectures, discussions, and hands-on activities that focused on leadership, teamwork, injury scenarios, and trauma.

One of the participant of the program, NMC student Ainah Chargualaf, said this training will equip the CNMI community with knowledge for future disasters.

"The CNMI is often hit with natural disasters, particularly typhoons, and this training would significantly benefit the community members as we lack enough resources to help those in need," Chargualaf said.

Leo Mereb, a firefighter at the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical

Services on Rota, shared the same sentiments.

"I would like to encourage all our community members to take part in DRAFA, because it's very beneficial to learn first-aid," Mereb said. "Having some basic knowledge in first-aid can make a difference in helping our community most especially during a disaster in our small tight knit community."

"The Family, Community, and Youth Development team of NMC-CREES, through the leadership of Tayna Belyeu-Camacho and our partners at CNMI Homeland Security and DFEMS, continue to address community needs and build our CNMI capacity through this integrated research and training project," interim

dean for NMC-CREES Patricia Coleman said.

"At NMC, we believe that being prepared for emergencies is key to building a resilient community," NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero said. "We are grateful to our partners for their support and collaboration in making this program possible, and we look forward to continuing to work together to enhance the health, safety, and well-being of all members of the CNMI community."

NMC-CREES thanks their partners at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management, CNMI Department of Fire and Emergency Medical

Services, American Red Cross-NMI Chapter, and Rodgers Educational Consulting for helping make this training possible.

NMC-CREES provides research and technical advice in the fields of agriculture, aquaculture, natural resources, food science, community and youth development, health, and nutrition that is locally sustainable, environmentally safe, and economically feasible, in order to enhance the well-being and improve the quality of life of the people living in the CNMI.

For more information about the DRAFA Training program, contact Belyeu-Camacho, at tayna.belyeu-camacho@marianas.edu or (670) 237-6841. (NMC)



The first cohort of DRAFA-certified participants with instructors from the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, American Red Cross, CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Rodgers Educational Consulting, and head instructor Dr. Todd Miner.



NMC

The second cohort of DRAFA-certified participants with instructors.

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**  
Tel: (670) 664-2371 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

**INVITATION TO BID**  
ITB23-GOV-42300066

**NMTI ROOF REPLACEMENT & IMPROVEMENTS**

**SUBMISSION DATE: 9:00 AM ChST, WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2023**

Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lieutenant Governor David M. Apatang, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), is soliciting sealed bids for the **NMTI Roof Replacement & Improvements**, Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). This project is funded by the 702 Capital Improvement Project funding under the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs.

The project package will be available in digital format only on **Wednesday, April 11, 2023** at the Capital Improvement Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, during regular working hours.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the project site in Lower Base, Saipan, CNMI at **10:00 AM ChST, May 2, 2023**.

Questions regarding this ITB may be submitted via email to Ms. Nerissa B. Karakaya at nerissa.benavente@gov.mp no later than **4:30 PM ChST, May 9, 2023**. All Questions & Answers will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Bidders located outside of the CNMI must fill out and submit the Notice of Intent to Bid Form to the Director of Procurement Services no later than **10:00 AM ChST, May 15, 2023**.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

The project package will be available on or after **April 11, 2023**, at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on the Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on **April 28, 2023**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **May 05, 2023** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/s/ ARNOLD I. PALACIOS  
Governor, CNMI**

**/s/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS, Jr., Acting Director  
CNMI Procurement Services**

**/S/ RAY N. YUMUL  
ACTING SECRETARY, DPW**

**/S/ BRIEN SERS NICHOLAS JR.  
ACTING DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF  
PROCUREMENT SERVICES**

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID**  
ITB NO.: DPW23-ITB NO.: 42300068

**SUBMISSION DATE: May 11, 2023 TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

**"Route 31 (Isa Drive) and Route 34 (Kagman Road) Intersection Hazard Elimination Project, Saipan"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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**/S/ RAY N. YUMUL  
ACTING SECRETARY, DPW**

**/S/ BRIEN SERS NICHOLAS JR.  
ACTING DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF  
PROCUREMENT SERVICES**

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA)**  
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Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962  
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

**AMENDED**

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) Board of Directors hereby gives notice that a special meeting is being called on **Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.** in the CPA Conference Room, second floor of the Captain George M. Fleming Building at the Port of Saipan on Saipan.

**AGENDA**

**I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

- 1. Call to Order
- 2. Roll Call
- 3. Adoption of Agenda
- 4. Adoption of Minutes (April 11, 2023)

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT(S)**

**III. SPECIAL MEETING ITEM(S):**

- 1. Saipan Airport's Explosive Detection System Replacement (EDS) Project Change Order 3, Supplemental Budget Request and CM Amendment
- 2. Non-contract Management/Supervisor Desk Audit and Performance Evaluations

**IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION (if needed)**

**V. MISCELLANEOUS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. A time limit may be imposed. Video Conferencing is also available via Zoom. See link below.

Zoom link: Meeting ID: 898 0318 0837 Passcode: 573227

KIMBERLY KING-HINDS  
Chairwoman, Board of Directors

April 24, 2023

# Bulgarian dance group Sofia6 performs at Fiesta Friday



Members of the Bulgarian folk dance group Sofia6 pose for a photo after their performance last Friday at the Fiesta Friday in Garapan

CHRYSTAL MARINO

By CHRYSTAL MARINO  
chrystal\_marino@saipantribune.com  
CORRESPONDENT

A visiting dance group from Bulgaria that is set to participate in a folk dance festival in Guam later this week performed a series of traditional dances and songs on the Fiesta Friday stage last Friday at the CNMI Museum Grounds.

The 18-member traditional dance group, Sofia6, wowed one of Fiesta Friday's larger crowds, with the group's performance evoking smiles and lightheartedness as members of the community, old and young, not only looked on but later also participated as Sofia6 members taught the audience one of their dances. The closing performance drew many individuals to the front of the stage, creating a circle, then a snake line, as they learned and participated in the folk dance as well.

Sofia6 is in this part of the world to participate in the first Mariana Islands International Dance & Arts Festival, which will take place on April 27 to 30 in Guam.

Sofia6 choreographer and director Nikolay Nestorov said their group was immediately made to feel welcome upon arriving on Saipan.

"Saipan is the place we have always dreamed of, and we were amazed by the warm greeting at the airport and the amazing people here, and we feel at home," he said.

He said they've been organizing an international folk-

lore festival in Bulgaria's capital, Sofia, for 27 years, and it was through this that they became familiar with the dances of the Marianas. "A couple of years ago, we had invited a group from Guam, so we are familiar with your cultural dances and life..." Nestorov said. For this year, they have once again invited a Guam delegation to participate in the 28th edition of the

Bulgaria festival.

When asked if they would visit Saipan again, Nestorov said, "Yes, of course, it would be a pleasure for us. We want to explore your culture lifestyle a lot more."

One of the dancers, Angelia Lukanova, said they are "very happy to see such a warm people here on this beautiful island. We were very blessed, really, to see

the beauty and hope that soon we are going to learn more about your culture. We enjoyed the food, we enjoy the weather, so really it was a paradise for us. Thank you for inviting us!"

The group was initially brought in to perform on the Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival stage, but with the event's postponement, the team has, nonetheless, still been able to share their rich culture and bring smiles to many on island, visiting the Man'Amko Center, the Office of the Mayor, calling on Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, and also performing last Saturday at the American Red Cross event in Susupe and yesterday at the Mt Carmel School auditorium. They will be

performing this morning at Marianas High School. They also took a traditional ride on one of 500 Sail's canoes.

The group will be departing today, Tuesday, for Guam where they will participate in the Mariana Islands Dance Festival.

As an acclaimed international dance group, Sofia6 has received many awards, including its sixth world award at the Estampas del Mundo in Mexico City in 2016. The group also won first prizes at the International Folklore Festival in Albania in 2021, the International Folk Music and Dance Festival in Serbia in 2020, and the Grand Prix at the International Folklore Festival in Romania in 2020.



Members of the community join Sofia6 in performing a traditional dance during the Fiesta Friday last Friday in Garapan

CHRYSTAL MARINO

## Ruszala joins Triple J as new marketing manager for Saipan

Triple J Saipan, Inc. announced yesterday the hiring of Brad Ruszala as the new marketing manager for its CNMI group operations.

Ruszala brings a wealth of marketing and advertising experience to Triple J, having successfully executed numerous campaigns across a variety of industries. His extensive background in public affairs, political-military relations, and protocol functions, along with his experience in marketing and communications, make him an excellent fit, having served



Ruszala

as a communications consultant for Commonwealth Communications, public affairs specialist for Joint Region Marianas, director of Sports, Entertainment and Activities for Pacific Islands Club, public information officer for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and anchor/reporter for KSPN 2 - Flametree TV.

As marketing manager for Triple J's CNMI operations, Ruszala will be responsible for developing and executing marketing and advertising campaigns, coordinating mar-

keting events, communicating with division managers to ensure clear goals on marketing projects, and conducting research and analysis of target markets and competitive activity.

"We are thrilled to have Brad join our team and bring his skills and experience to Triple J," said Jeff Jones, president and COO of Triple J Enterprises, Inc. "Brad's proven track record of successful marketing campaigns and his ability to work collaboratively with others make him the perfect fit for this role. We are confident that he will be a valuable asset to our team

and help drive our marketing efforts forward."

"I am excited to take on this role as marketing manager with a company that contributes so much to our community," said Ruszala, "Triple J has so many successful companies under its umbrella, and I look forward to working with our talented team of brand managers to drive impactful marketing campaigns and initiatives."

Originally from Buffalo, NY, Ruszala moved to Saipan in 2003 where he met his wife, Kathy. They have two children, Keoni and Leilani, ages 11 and 10. (PR)

### COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIIMPORTS.COM



#### AMENDED REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

#### TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BACKUP POWER SYSTEM UPGRADE PROJECT NO. CPA-TA-002-23

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, CPA is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for the upgrade of the airport's backup power system at the Tinian International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, Project No. CPA-TA-002-23.

The project is being funded by CPA and is in accordance and compliance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations, Section 40-50-202, Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. Electronic copies may be made available upon written request to Ms. Wendi Prater, CPA's Executive Assistant/Project Manager, at wprater@cnmiports.com or Ms. Sheri Llagas at receptionist@cnmiports.com.

Questions regarding this request for qualification statements must be submitted to Ms. Prater or hand delivered to the CPA Administration Office by no later than 5:00 p.m. CHST, Friday, April 28, 2023.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than 5:00 p.m. CHST, FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2023. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria provided in the RFQ package.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO  
Executive Director

Date: April 24, 2023

# Opinion

## Saipan Tribune

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## EDITORIAL

### Fistfights aren't gunfights. Knives don't go off accidentally. Yes, guns kill

There's an old cliché in America's gun debate that is so anathema to common sense—Guns don't kill, people kill—that politically serious defenders of gun culture seldom even invoke it anymore. Like "thoughts and prayers," it has become a dark and self-defeating punchline. Yet former President Donald Trump and his former vice president, Mike Pence, both went there last week, while speaking separately to the National Rifle Association's annual gathering in Indiana.

"We don't need gun control, we need crime control," Pence declared, offering a clever rhetorical construct that neatly ignores the undeniable relationship between crime and guns. Trump opined: "This is not a gun problem, this is a mental health problem, this is a social problem, this is a cultural problem, this is a spiritual problem," a laundry list that more closely resembles his own psychological maladies.

The undeniable fact they keep avoiding is this: Yes, it's the guns.

Consider these recent incidents:

— Kaylin Gillis, 20, was shot and killed in upstate New York Saturday by a man sitting on his porch after the driver of the car in which Gillis was a passenger accidentally turned into the wrong driveway while trying to find a friend's house.

— Two teenage cheerleaders in Texas were shot Tuesday when one mistakenly opened a car door in a parking lot, thinking it was their car.

— Four people were killed and more than two-dozen wounded after shooting broke out at a teenager's birthday party in Alabama.

— An 11-year-old boy was shot in the chest in East St. Louis after gunfire erupted during a dispute between two women over clothing. His condition was unclear.

— Ralph Yarl, 16, was shot in the head by a Kansas City resident whose door Yarl mistakenly approached while trying to pick up his siblings. Yarl survived.

In each of these cases, conflicts that might have ended with flying fists instead ended with flying bullets. This is the reality of a nation with far more civilian guns per capita than any other, during an era when red states like Missouri are loosening gun restrictions with ideological abandon.

Mass shootings wouldn't have anything like the body count they do if the attackers had less access to such lethal weapons. In fact, on the same day that a gunman attacked Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut in 2012, a man armed with a knife attacked a school in China. The American death toll: 26. The Chinese death toll: zero.

Suicide accounts for most American gun deaths. Think about that: People who try to end their lives with pills or by jumping off bridges have a chance of survival; gun suicides mostly don't. Roughly 500 Americans die annually from gun accidents. Knives don't go off accidentally.

So, yes, guns kill. But only to the extent that America's gun-addled politicians—and the voters who keep electing them—allow them to.

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## The \$787M settlement for Fox News isn't enough

In what feels like a previous life when I lived in Washington, D.C., I used to appear frequently on all three cable news networks as a political analyst.

Before Donald Trump ever ran for president, I had already gotten to know most Fox News hosts professionally.

All were unfailingly friendly when the cameras were off, but two, Sean Hannity and Tucker Carlson, became animated and combative when the cameras turned on. Even then, among all cable news hosts, Hannity and Carlson were the ones who seemed to be performing, playing characters they knew their audience wanted to watch.

So it was not a surprise to me when text messages, released recently as a part of Dominion Voting Systems' \$1.6 billion defamation lawsuit against Fox News, showed that Hannity and Carlson, along with News Corp CEO Rupert Murdoch, never believed the 2020 election conspiracies they aired as former President Donald Trump wrongly insisted the election had been stolen from him.

Dominion's defamation case was resolved earlier this week when Fox agreed to pay the company \$787 million to settle out of court. But \$787 million isn't nearly enough for the damage that Fox News did, including here in Georgia.

Trump's insistence in the days after the 2020 election that the election had been stolen from him put the state's elections in chaotic limbo for nearly two months.

Elections officials received death threats. The Georgia House and Senate held special hearings on the election, which were broadcast live from the state Capitol.

To mollify Trump and millions of angry Trump voters in Georgia, Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger ordered a machine recount, a hand recount, a forensic audit, and a signature audit of Georgia's results.

All confirmed that Joe Biden won the state, but Trump continued to wrongly insist, as he does to this day, that the election was rigged against him.

Why were some Georgia voters so convinced otherwise? In part because of the conspiracies that viewers were seeing on Fox News every night, even as the Fox hosts airing them privately said they never bought a word of it.

A perfect example came from Hannity two weeks after the election, when he invited Sidney Powell, a lawyer for the Trump campaign, on to discuss her claims that Dominion voting machines had been manipulated to steal votes for Biden. Dominion machines are used in Georgia.

After Powell claimed she had government whistleblowers who could testify that the Dominion machines "shaved" "trashed" and "injected" votes from Trump, Hannity thanked Powell and said, "Now we have to ask, why did we use them?"

Did Hannity believe any of the conspiracies that Powell and Trump's other lawyers were pushing? Not according to his testimony in the Dominion case.

"I did not believe it for one second," he said under oath last year in a deposition.

By PATRICIA MURPHY

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution



It wasn't just Hannity who called the Trump claims nonsense privately, but fed them to viewers anyway.

Tucker Carlson did a lengthy segment about Powell's tales of 7 million missing votes the day after she appeared on Hannity.

He said that he'd "always respected" her work and detailed the false claims, but noted that she'd refused to send evidence of the claims she was making on Fox and elsewhere.

"Why are we telling you this? We're telling you this because it's true, and in the end, that's all that matters," he said.

Is the truth all that matters? What Carlson didn't say that night was that he had been texting about Powell in the days leading up to that interview, variously calling her a "lying ...crazy person," and a "lunatic," even though he said on air that he respected her that night.

And on his show the next day, Carlson concluded, even without that missing evidence, "Voter fraud is something that is real, that just took place two weeks ago. Our media class doesn't want to talk about it."

Over the next several weeks, Trump attorneys continued to appear on Fox programs, including with Lou Dobbs and Maria Bartiromo, pushing the conspiracies that Fox's leadership did not believe.

As I and other reporters covered GOP events in Georgia, we heard over and over from Georgia voters who did not believe the election was legitimate, weeks after it had been certified. They restated the same claims that Fox News had been airing about the Dominion voting machines. Some did not believe Biden would ever be inaugurated.

The damage to voters' trust in Georgia's elections was so profound that lawmakers passed an election law overhaul the next year, with multiple changes to prevent "another stolen election" when the 2020 election was never stolen in the first place.

But when News Corp CEO Rupert Murdoch was asked under oath in his deposition if he believed the election had been fair, he said yes. "The election was not stolen."

The cost to the company for its role in all of that was not enough for the damage done, and Fox did not apologize for any of it.

It's hard to say what dollar amount could compensate the country for the lies the Trump team told and Fox News' failure to report the truth when they knew it. But without an apology, \$787 million hardly seems enough.

## EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com); or through our website at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

## In frightened, paranoid, gun-crazed America, the real ‘stranger danger’ is to strangers

I am not a Fox News fan, so I was curious what the conservative media company’s viewers made of this week’s massive \$787.5 million settlement with Dominion Voting Systems over broadcasting lies that the 2020 presidential election had been stolen.

On Monday, I reached out to some of the conservatives who had responded to a Twitter survey I sent out in 2019 asking how they thought I should cover the upcoming election. Given that they were interested enough at the time to tell me how they thought I should do my job for the L.A. Times back then, I was curious about how they interpreted Fox News’ decision to settle with Dominion.

I was surprised at a couple of the responses I got back.

“I am much less of a Fox News viewer now than when you sent the survey [in 2019] for the specific reason that whereas they had set the agenda for Republicans—politicians took cues from their narratives and topics—now it’s the opposite,” one conservative wrote back to me in an email. “What the lawsuit showed through discovery is that the network no longer controls the narrative. Instead it’s driven by the base of the party and rather than dictate terms of the political agenda the network is simply following the party’s base.”

Another Fox News viewer wrote back to me with a similar rebuke for the channel: “Yes, it has affected my view of FOX. Negatively. FOX has enough money to fight a court case. Instead, they chose to settle. To me that means they felt there was a significant possibility they would lose in court once the facts of the case were litigated. Unfortunately I am now persuaded that I can trust NONE of the mainstream media. It seems they are all interested in only one thing—views. Views translate to income through advertising. They will get views at any cost, including untruthful reporting.”

There’s nothing more tantalizing to a journalist than apostates. But what also interested me in both of these responses was how they played off and inverted a classic left-wing criticism of for-profit media. It’s worth exploring to understand what, exactly, just happened at Fox News.

Here goes: The mass media serve a bamboozling role on behalf of a powerful, controlling elite in the “propaganda model” theory given by Edward Herman and Noam Chomsky in their 1988 book “Manufacturing Consent.” “Money and power are able to filter out the news fit to print, marginalize dissent, and allow the government and dominant private interests to get their messages across to the public,” they write. In this telling, journalists who think they’re practicing objectivity are just fooling themselves. It’s all just propaganda for the ruling class.

But in the closing days of the Trump administration, the way things actually played out at Fox News—the quintessential profiteering media giant, owned by tycoon Rupert Murdoch and fused at the hip with the ruling Republican Party—was so much simpler. No cabal needed here: Fox News was less afraid of Murdoch or of Trump than its own audience and what might happen if the masses stopped watching. The real boss was the

ratings, the true master the quarterly earnings.

Take what Dominion learned in the trial’s discovery process about the supposedly all-powerful Murdoch, one of the world’s wealthiest people. Murdoch called Trump’s stolen election claims a “myth” and acknowledged that he could have stopped election fibbers like Rudy Giuliani from going on the air and didn’t. Yet he was afraid of antagonizing the network’s viewers. His son Lachlan, Fox Corp.’s chief executive, said Fox News’ ratings kept him up at night.

Or take firebrand host Tucker Carlson, who wrote to fellow hosts Laura Ingraham and Sean Hannity in a text chain about a coworker who tweeted fact-checks of Trump’s election lies: “Please get her fired. Seriously ... What the f—? I’m actually shocked... It needs to stop immediately, like tonight. It’s measurably hurting the company. The stock price is down. Not a joke.”

As the trial loomed, evidence abounded that, apart from some apparent true believers, few of the most powerful people inside Fox News actually believed the president’s lies that the election had been stolen. But the source of the profits—the audience—did. This is legally significant, because America’s very broad libel protections for journalists don’t cover “actual malice,” where you say things you either know or have reason to believe aren’t true. Fox News still faces formidable legal challenges from voting machine company Smartmatic and its own shareholders.

Smaller competitors Newsmax and One America News, which originally benefited from gaining some far-right viewers dissatisfied even with Fox’s coverage of the election, are also still in Dominion and Smartmatic’s legal sights over election lies. (Newsmax published a particularly jittery defense of itself after Fox’s settlement, stating “that the facts at issue in Dominion’s case against it are materially different from those that may have driven Fox to settle, and no conclusion about Newsmax should be drawn from that settlement.”)

The scope of the completely avoidable disaster at Fox News revives old questions about who actually wields the power of the media. What’s the point of being a massive media company like Fox, a big billionaire like Murdoch or a top TV host like Carlson if you’re still too scared to tell the truth when you really need to?

This question brings me back to my estranged Fox News viewers, who understood all too keenly that the network had sold itself out to its own audience—viewers just like them—and they resented it. They came to Fox News because they wanted agenda setting. But the channel, by chasing profits, had become too much of an engine reflecting fractious mass politics instead of elite opinion. This is the inversion of Chomsky.

My second respondent, Chuck Thompson, 79, from the northern Dallas suburb of Addison, told me in a follow-up phone interview that he used to like watching Fox News commentators like Carlson, Greg Gutfeld and “The Five” in clips on YouTube. A self-described conservative independent who usually votes for Republicans, Thompson knew that what he was getting from Fox

News was commentary. But he was watching with the presumption that the opinions he was hearing were being based on solid reporting from elsewhere on the network. Thompson was, in short, expecting intellectual honesty.

“Basically I was of the opinion that the liberal media was just lying all the time because they hated Trump, and that rolled into lying all the time about everything that developed after that—the war in Ukraine, any kind of a scandal that came up,” Thompson said. “I had not questioned conservative media in the same way, because I believed what they were saying was more in line with the truth.”

But doubts began to creep into his mind when he noticed that, the same way the liberal media didn’t seem to think Trump could do any right, conservative media didn’t seem to think Trump couldn’t do any wrong—which didn’t feel right.

Those doubts coalesced this week when Fox News settled the Dominion lawsuit; Thompson said he’d been keeping an open mind about the case and wanted to see how things played out. “That settlement indicated to me that Fox knew they were going to get killed in court, which means they knew they were lying,” Thompson said.

Now, instead of just questioning the trustworthiness of liberal media, Thompson told me he now questioned the trustworthiness of all media. And he doesn’t know where to go from here. “If you’re conservative minded and you don’t believe in liberal news, and then suddenly you don’t believe in conservative news, you don’t have news,” he said.

Yet I expect viewers like Thompson are probably in the minority. At the moment, it doesn’t seem realistic to expect Fox News to seriously change its ways. The channel could barely bring itself to disclose to viewers the brutal beating it had just taken in the Dominion lawsuit. The company seems to have enough financial reserves to pay out the settlement and then some. Murdoch’s media empire is, after all, used to paying lots of big settlements after flouting the law, and it doesn’t seem to have been all that bad for business. (Viewers straying over to Newsmax, though—that’s bad for business.) When the money spigot stays on, everybody stays paid, the rank and file stays in line. Inside the prison of profit, the meals are hot, the blankets are soft and few tunnel to escape.

## Ron DeSantis 2024 campaign looks over before it’s even started

Ron DeSantis can’t even beat Mickey Mouse. How is he possibly going to beat Donald Trump? In the battle between Disney and DeSantis in Florida, Mickey wins.

And as the Florida GOP governor takes on the Magic Kingdom, his hopes of a White House run – at least a successful one – look over.

DeSantis has peaked. And he hasn’t even announced yet.

Once touted as the conservative alternative to Trump, DeSantis is seeing his political dream collapsing.

Heavy-hitting donors are balking. Florida pols are backing The Donald. Insiders say that because of his lateness getting in the race he has no organization in early primary states like New Hampshire and South Carolina.

Trump – thanks to the arrow in his back from the grandstanding Manhattan DA – is actually expanding his lead and his campaign coffers.

The conservative Florida governor best known for booting migrants to Martha’s Vineyard and waging war on Mickey Mouse can’t get traction and in fact has seen his support collapse over the last few months.

DeSantis peaked months ago when he got attention for sending illegal immigrants to the monied Massachusetts

island, but that was never more than just a stunt – much like his dispute with Disney.

The Florida governor can only watch helplessly as Trump racks up endorsements and fundraising – which have only increased since the former president’s indictment.

Just this week, six more Republican Congress members from the Sunshine State defected to Trump, exposing a glaring weakness in DeSantis’s home state. That makes a total of 10 members of Congress from Florida siding with Trump.

Just three Republican members of Congress nationwide have endorsed DeSantis.

In addition, a prominent GOP donor went public about his dissatisfaction with DeSantis, saying that the GOP governor’s “stance on abortion and book banning” is triggering other donors to stay away. Other Republican donors vented in a private chat obtained by Rolling Stone.

“What the (expletive) is wrong with RD?” one donor wrote in the group chat, complaining about DeSantis campaigning out of state while massive flooding ravaged south Florida.

DeSantis hasn’t been impressive on the stump. His rather wooden delivery is a stark contrast to Trump’s bombast. He has made gaffes, like calling Russia’s invasion of Ukraine a “territorial dispute.”

And the fights he has picked look petty. Does the average voter really care about Disney flying the rainbow flag? Is it going to stop people going to Disney? It’s a fringe issue. Disney is actually doubling down against DeSantis. For DeSantis to shut down Disney, it would be like Maura Healey trying to shut down the Patriots.

And as far as the rest of the potential GOP candidates go, no one is seriously challenging Trump, though former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley is trying hard.

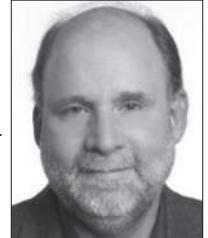
Chris Christie seriously? The only thing he’s defeated is the buffet table at the Ramada Inn.

For Republicans, it’s Trump or bust.

By WILL BUNCH

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Will Bunch is national columnist for the Philadelphia Inquirer.



By JOE BATTENFELD

Boston Herald

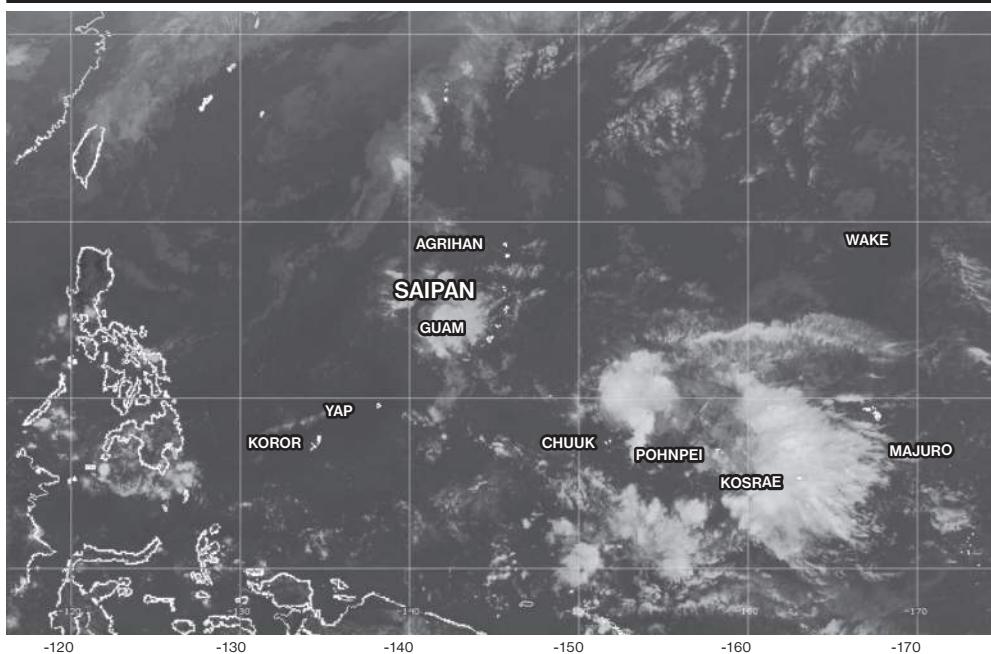


# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Scattered showers. Partly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny
85°	76°	86°	75°	86°
74°	86°	74°	86°	74°

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:49 AM, MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite and radar indicating mostly cloudy skies with scattered showers for Guam coastal waters, with partly cloudy skies and isolated showers for the CNMI islands. Buoys and latest altimetry pass show seas between 5 to 7 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA		▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Scattered Thunderstorms	86°	/	79°
Palau	Mostly Sunny	85°	/	77°
Yap	Mostly Sunny	87°	/	79°
Chuuk	Scattered Thunderstorms	87°	/	80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86°	/	77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85°	/	80°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85°	/	80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:57 AM	6:33 PM
Wednesday	5:56 AM	6:33 PM
Thursday	5:56 AM	6:33 PM
Friday	5:55 AM	6:33 PM
Saturday	5:55 AM	6:34 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	9:44 AM	11:18 PM	-
Wednesday	10:37 AM	-	-
Thursday	-	12:08 AM	11:31 AM
Friday	-	12:54 AM	12:23 PM
Saturday	-	1:36 AM	1:13 PM

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## AROUND THE GLOBE

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	65° / 60°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	71° / 39°
Hong Kong	Cloudy	77° / 68°
Honolulu	Showers	82° / 72°
London	Showers	51° / 35°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	73° / 57°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	93° / 80°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	77° / 55°
Miami	Thunderstorms	81° / 74°
New York	Showers	62° / 45°
Osaka	Cloudy	64° / 59°
Paris	Showers	56° / 43°
Busan	Rain	58° / 49°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	71° / 47°
Salem	Cloudy	69° / 47°
San Francisco	Cloudy	64° / 48°
Seoul	Showers	58° / 45°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	65° / 59°
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	61° / 42°

## TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET

12:15 AM	High Tide	1.77
05:34 AM	Low Tide	1.33
09:44 AM	High Tide	1.67
5:30 PM	Low Tide	-0.01

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 24, 2023

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117		9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily		UA174	
UA117				UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:15AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA189	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA192				UA192	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM			UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW9308	3:45AM	7:30AM	4, 7	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	7C3405	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily				

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, TWay Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

### FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #		DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun	3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			

# Business

## Show your appreciation with 5+1 special at Aqua Resort

By LEIGH GASES  
leigh\_gases@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

What's a better way to show appreciation during this Administrative Profes-

sionals Week than with a delicious lunch at the Aqua Resort Club Saipan's Costa Terrace Restaurant?

Don't worry about stretching your budget either as the



Get fresh hand-tossed pizza during Tuesday and Friday at the Aqua Resort Club Saipan during Administrative Professionals Week and get a sweet 5+1 deal with it.

5+1 special let's one eat free all through this Friday, April 29.

Lunch is just \$22 per adult and the swimming pool is open until 5pm for those who dined in.

Extra guests will be charged and to avail of the swim pass, make your way to the front desk, show your buffet receipt, and they will give you a wristband.

ARC food and beverage manager Marie Ann Razon-Isip said ARC used to celebrate admin professionals with a one-day event with Administrative Professionals Day landing on Wednesdays. Now, they decided to do a one week special for those who do not have time just on Wednesday to come out and celebrate.

She did say, however, that this special is not only for a team of workers, as any group of six adults are able to avail this promo.

If you have not tried their themed buffet, now is your chance to bring your whole team, family, or group of friends to try out their Asian-themed cuisines on Monday and Wednesday, western-themed cuisine on Tuesday and

Friday, or the island-themed cuisine on Thursday.

For those short on time for lunch, gift certificates for room accommodations and the restaurant are available.

The restaurant is open for lunch from 11:30am to 2pm from Monday through Saturday. For reservations or more information, call (670) 322-1234.



Delicious and sweet desserts like these eclairs along with tiramisu and others are sure to satisfy your sweet tooth after a hearty meal at the Aqua Resort Club Saipan.



LEIGH GASES

Try out the delicious themed lunch buffet at the Aqua Resort Club Saipan and treat yourself or your staff to a 5+1 free deal that will last until Friday, April 29, in celebration of Administrative Professionals Week.

## South Korea restores Japan on trade 'white list'

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea formally restored Japan to its list of countries it gives preferential treatment in trade on Monday, three years after the neighbors downgraded each other's trade status amid a diplomatic row fueled by historical grievances.

In announcing the move through a government gazette, South Korea's Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy also said Seoul will further restrict technology and industrial exports to Russia and its ally Belarus to support the U.S.-led pressure campaign against Moscow over the war in Ukraine.

After years of friction, Seoul and Tokyo are working to repair relations as they tighten their three-way security cooperation with Washington to counter the threat posed by North Korea. Pyongyang has used the distractions caused by the war to accelerate testing of nuclear-capable missiles.

South Korean officials expect Tokyo to restore Seoul as a favored trade partner too, but expect that step to take more time based on the procedures to revise Japan's export regulations.

In September 2019, South Korea dropped Japan from its "white list" of countries receiving fast-track approvals

in trade, reacting to a similar move by Tokyo. Japan had also tightened export controls on key chemicals South Korean companies use to make semiconductors and displays, prompting South Korea to file a complaint with the World Trade Organization.

Seoul accused Tokyo of weaponizing trade to retaliate against South Korean court rulings that ordered Japanese companies to offer reparations to South Koreans forced into slave labor before the end of World War II, when Japan had colonized the Korean Peninsula. The 2018 rulings irked Japan, which insists all compensation issues were settled by a 1965 treaty that normalized relations.

Relations between the U.S. allies began to thaw in March when the government of South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol, who took office in May 2022, announced plans to use South Korean funds to compensate the forced laborers without requiring Japanese contributions. Yoon traveled to Tokyo to meet with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and they vowed to rebuild the countries' security and economic ties.

Yoon's push to mend ties with Tokyo has triggered criticism from some forced labor victims and from his political rivals. They have called

for direct compensation from Japanese companies that employed the forced laborers. But Yoon has defended his decision, saying closer ties with Japan are essential for dealing with a slew of regional challenges, especially North Korea's growing nuclear threat.

Following the Yoon-Kishida summit, South Korea withdrew its complaint at the WTO against Japan as Tokyo simultaneously confirmed its removal of export controls over a set of chemicals seen as vital to South Korea's technology industry. The Japanese restrictions had covered fluorinated polyimides, which are used in organic light-emitting diode (OLED) screens for TVs and smartphones, and photoresist and hydrogen fluoride, used for making semiconductors. With Japan's status restored, South Korea now provides preferential treatment to 29 countries — including the United States, Britain and France — over exports of sensitive "strategic" materials that can be used for both civilian and military purposes.

South Korea divides its trade partners into two groups in managing export approvals of sensitive materials. The waiting period is usually five days for white-list nations, while other countries

are required to go through case-by-case reviews that can take up to 15 days.

In announcing its new regulations over exports of strategic materials, the South Korean trade ministry also said the country will place hundreds more industrial products and components under its export restrictions against Russia and Belarus

beginning this week.

Seoul's controls so far have covered 57 items, including those related to electronics and shipbuilding, with authorities banning their shipments to Russia and Belarus unless the companies obtain special approvals.

The list will increase to 798 items beginning Friday, including exports related to construction, machinery, steelmaking, automobiles, semiconductors and advanced computing.

"(We) plan to work with relevant ministries to strengthen crackdowns and enforcement to prevent (the restricted items) from reaching Russia or Belarus through third countries," the ministry said in a statement.

## German government, unions reach pay deal for public workers

BERLIN (AP)—German government officials and labor unions have reached a pay deal for more than 2.5 million public-sector workers, ending a lengthy dispute and heading off the possibility of disruptive all-out strikes.

The ver.di union had pressed for hefty raises as Germany, like many other countries, grapples with high inflation. Interior Minister Nancy Faeser said as the deal was announced around midnight Sunday that "we accommodated the unions as far as we could responsibly do in a difficult budget situation."

The deal entails tax-free one-time payments totaling 3,000 euros (\$3,300) per employee, with the first 1,240 euros coming in June and monthly payments of 220 euros following until February. In March, regular monthly pay for all will be increased by 200 euros, followed by a salary increase of 5.5% — with a minimum raise of 340 euros per month

assured. The deal runs through to the end of 2024.

Ver.di originally sought a one-year deal with a raise of 10.5%. The deal was reached on the basis of a proposal by arbitrators who were called in after talks broke down last month.

Ver.di chair Frank Werneke said that "we went to our pain threshold with the decision to make this compromise." He said that the raises in regular pay next year will amount to an increase of over 11% for most employees of federal and municipal governments.

The union has staged frequent walkouts over recent months to underline its demands, with local transport, hospitals and other public services hit.

Germany's annual inflation rate has declined from the levels it reached late last year but is still high. It stood at 7.4% in March.

The past few months have seen plenty of other tense pay

negotiations in Europe's biggest economy, some of which have yet to be concluded. In a joint show of strength, ver.di and the EVG union — which represents many railway workers — staged a one-day strike last month that paralyzed much of the country's transport network.

EVG, whose members walked off the job again on Friday, is seeking a 12% raise and has rejected the idea of negotiating a deal based on the arbitration proposal that helped resolve the public workers' dispute. The next round of talks is set for Tuesday.

And ver.di is still in a dispute with Germany's airport security companies association over pay and conditions for security staff. In the latest of a string of walkouts, it has called on security workers at Berlin Airport to walk out on Monday. The airport says there will be no departures all day.

# Nation

## Biden's 2024 campaign has been hiding in plain sight

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—President Joe Biden's reelection campaign has been hiding in plain sight all along.

The contours of the 2024 campaign that Biden will formally launch with a video as soon as this week will look a lot like his messaging and policy moves from the past few months: Play up accomplishments from his first two years, draw a sharp contrast with Republican policies he deems extreme, and brush off worries about his age.

Biden, aides contend, has essentially been campaigning since Republicans took control of the House last year, focused on showing Americans how his administration is implementing massive new infrastructure, technology and climate laws, and portraying Republicans as in the grip of the far right at a time when Washington is nearing a crucial fight over raising the nation's borrowing limit.

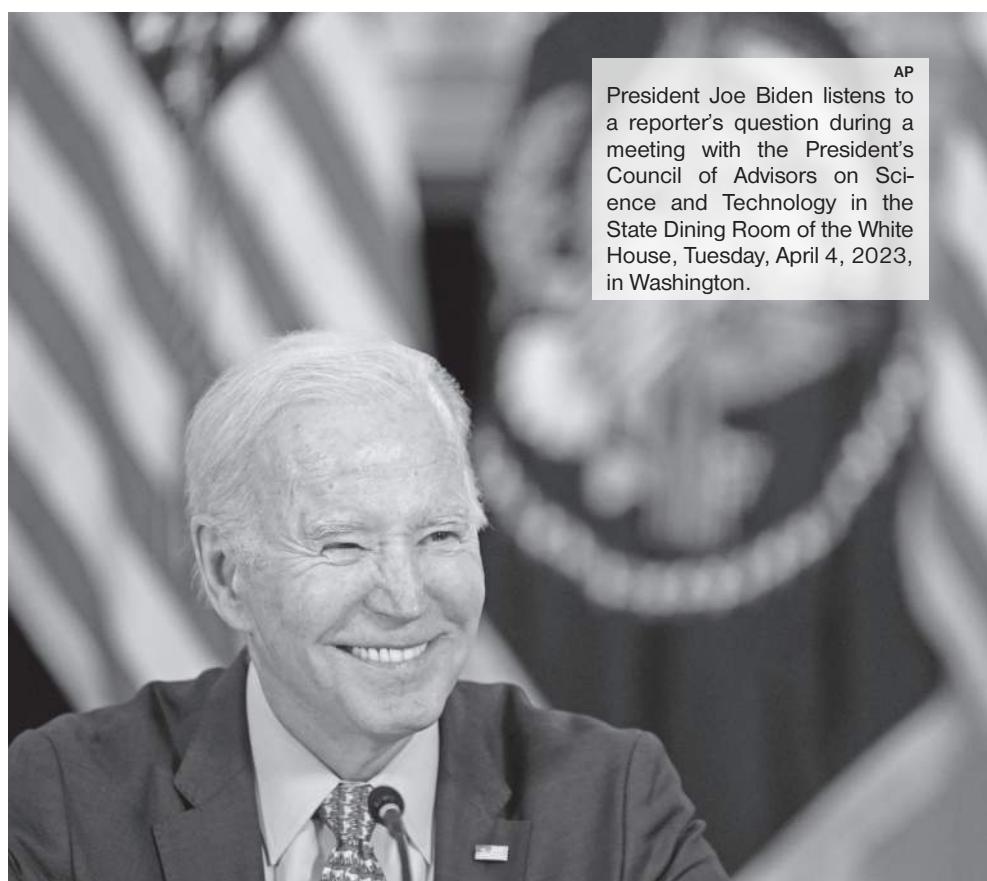
While advisers say Biden's activities and message in coming months will be largely indistinguishable from what he's been doing over the last six months, the frame of reference

will inevitably shift as voters increasingly tune in to 2024 political dynamics.

"President Biden is delivering and making the strong case for reelection before, during and after any formal campaign announcement," said Democratic consultant and former Biden spokesman Scott Mulhauser. "Rather than throwing darts at calendars, let's focus on the President doing his job and doing it well, from an investing in America tour, an economy humming and unemployment at historic lows to a home run of a State of the Union, an expertly pulled-off Ukraine trip and more."

He added: "These wins on economic and political fronts onward are what success looks like, how incumbents win and matter far more than a campaign kick-off event."

Aides are planning for Biden's launch video to be released Tuesday, the four-year anniversary of his first successful campaign launch, but said the timing was still fluid. It was not immediately clear whether the president, who was spending the weekend at Camp David, had as



AP  
President Joe Biden listens to a reporter's question during a meeting with the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology in the State Dining Room of the White House, Tuesday, April 4, 2023, in Washington.

yet taped it. He was expected to select Julie Rodriguez, a senior White House adviser, to manage his reelection campaign, according to two people familiar with deliberations.

Biden has taken his time in

making official his candidacy for reelection not because he's wavered in his commitment to run, a half-dozen aides and advisers said, but because there was little incentive to do it sooner.

Incumbents—with the exception of former President Donald Trump, who filed for reelection on his Inauguration Day—tend to hold off on announcing as long as possible. Most deemed it easier

the coming weeks.

As DeSantis prepares to launch, the Republican state-house supermajority has worked at a rapid pace to carry out the governor's conservative cultural agenda. In a sign of their ongoing com-

### National push to bolster security of key election technology

**ATLANTA** (AP)—An effort to create a national testing program for technology central to U.S. elections will be launched later this year, aiming to strengthen the security of equipment that has been targeted by foreign governments and provided fertile ground for conspiracy theories.

While all signs point to a DeSantis run, he isn't likely to make any announcements until after the state legislature concludes its business in early May. Some allies initially believed he might wait until as late as early summer to enter the race, but with the political landscape shifting, they now expect him to announce as early as the week of May 8, but more likely around the end of the month.

DeSantis is spending his time abroad this week. Over the weekend, he launched what his office described as an international trade mission to Japan, South Korea, Israel and the United Kingdom.

Technically, DeSantis couldn't enter the 2024 presidential contest now even if he wanted to because the Republican-controlled state legislature has yet to overturn Florida's so-called "resign to run" law, which bars officials

from seeking one office while holding another. Republican House Speaker Paul Renner said last week that he's confident the change would make it through the Legislature in

the coming weeks.

pliance, lawmakers last week began to move legislation that would further solidify DeSantis' control of Disney World's governing body, the latest spat in the Republican governor's extraordinary feud with the private business.

"This is a critical need being filled at a critical time," said Chris Wlaschin, senior vice president for Election Systems & Software, a leading voting machine manufacturer that also produces electronic pollbooks. "I think as more election officials learn about it, the more they're going to ask for it."

The use of electronic pollbooks in particular has expanded rapidly in recent years. Nearly one-third of all voting jurisdictions in the U.S. used electronic pollbooks in 2020, compared with about 18% four years earlier, according to data collected by federal Election Assistance Commission.

The systems bring unique security challenges. In many cases, they have internet connections or interact with sys-

tems that do. In counties with a vote center model, where registered voters can cast a ballot at any polling place, electronic pollbooks often communicate with each other and with the central voter registration system. That's one way to ensure people are not able to vote at multiple locations or vote in-person after returning a mail ballot.

How much of an effect the new testing program will have on the 2024 presidential election is yet to be determined. Much depends on how many technology providers sign up and how many state election offices will use it, but there appears to be wide interest.

"One of the major benefits of this program is that it will provide a consistent process for certification for all of the different states that adopt it," Jamie Remes with VR Systems, a provider of electronic pollbooks and election management systems, said during a recent event organized to discuss the testing program.

## Some DeSantis allies feel growing urgency to launch 2024 bid

By STEVE PEOPLES  
AP NATIONAL POLITICAL WRITER

Inside the Florida statehouse, Gov. Ron DeSantis' Republican allies say they're working "at warp speed" to finish their legislative business.

In South Carolina and Nevada, early voting states that are critical in a presidential primary, his operatives are moving quickly to build out a political team that is essentially a campaign in waiting. And in Washington, his most vocal supporters are urging him to announce his White House intentions now.

Just six months after a dominant reelection sent his national stock soaring, a palpable sense of urgency is growing among DeSantis' allies as increasingly emboldened critics within his own party—particularly former President Donald Trump—work to undermine his presidential campaign before it begins.

"I would prefer him to be in the race right now. In fact, I encouraged him to get in the race right now," said Rep. Thomas Massie, R-Ky., who hosted a visit by DeSantis to Washington last week that was overshadowed by Trump's efforts to pick off support among Florida's congressional delegation.

In an interview, Massie, who is one of just three members of Congress who has endorsed DeSantis for 2024, acknowledged the governor is losing some political strength.

Many GOP voters have rallied behind Trump in the wake of his recent criminal indictment in New York. Some DeSantis donors are pausing their donations, citing concerns about his readiness for the national stage. Other would-be supporters have begun to worry that the policy victories he celebrates in Florida—including the six-week abortion ban he signed earlier in the month and an ongoing crackdown on Disney, the state's largest employer—may ultimately become political liabilities.

"If there is any urgency, it's to make sure no third-place candidate emerges. Right now, it's a heads-up race between Donald Trump and Ron DeSantis," Massie said. "The urgency I feel is, the more cats and dogs that get in the race, the more they could siphon from Ron DeSantis."

The Republican Party won't formally choose its next presidential nominee until August of next year at its national convention. But with the first presidential debate little

more than three months away, several Republicans have launched campaigns already. More are expected to join in the coming weeks.

For DeSantis, who has operated for much of the year with a quiet confidence that he could enter the race on his terms, some Republicans suggest it may be later than he thinks.

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the coming weeks.

As DeSantis prepares to launch, the Republican state-house supermajority has worked at a rapid pace to carry out the governor's conservative cultural agenda. In a sign of their ongoing com-

# World

## Ukrainian troop positions spark speculation of counteroffensive

**KYIV, Ukraine** (AP)—Ukrainian military forces have successfully established positions on the eastern side of the Dnieper River, according to a new analysis, giving rise to speculation Sunday that the advances could be an early sign of Kyiv's long-awaited spring counteroffensive.

The Institute for the Study of War, a Washington-based think tank, reported late Saturday that geolocated footage from pro-Kremlin military bloggers indicated that Ukrainian troops had established a foothold near the town of Oleshky, along with "stable supply lines"

to their positions.

Analysts widely believe that if Ukraine goes ahead with a spring counteroffensive, a major goal would be to break through the land corridor between Russia and the annexed Crimean Peninsula, which would necessitate crossing the Dnieper River in the country's south.

Responding to Ukrainian media reports proclaiming that the establishment of such positions indicated the counteroffensive had begun, Natalia Humeniuk, the spokeswoman for Ukraine's Operational Command South, called for patience.

While neither confirming

nor denying the ISW report, she said only that details of military operations in the Dnieper delta couldn't be disclosed for operational and security reasons.

Speaking on Ukrainian television, Humeniuk added that it was "very difficult work" when "it's necessary to overcome an obstacle such as the Dnieper, when the front line passes through a wide and powerful river."

The Kremlin-installed

head of the Kherson region, one of four parts of Ukraine that Russia said it was illegally annexing in September, denied on Sunday that Ukrainian forces have established a foothold on the east bank of the Dnieper.

In a Telegram update, Vladimir Saldo said that Russian forces are "in full control" of the area, and speculated that the images referenced by the ISW may have depicted Ukrainian sabotage units that

"managed to take a selfie" across the Dnieper before being forced back.

After more than a year since the Russian invasion, recent fighting has become a war of attrition, with neither side able to gain momentum.

But Ukraine has recently received sophisticated weapons from its Western allies, and new troops freshly trained in the West, giving rise to growing anticipation of a counteroffensive.

American-made Patriot missiles arrived in Ukraine last week and military spokesman Yuriy Ihnat said Sunday on Ukrainian television that some have already gone into battlefield service.

The U.S. agreed in October to send the surface-to-air systems, which can target aircraft, cruise missiles and shorter-range ballistic missiles such as those that Russia has used to bombard residential areas and the Ukrainian power grid.

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### Guerrillas assassinate top Myanmar election official

**BANGKOK** (AP)—A top election official in Myanmar was fatally shot in his car in Yangon, the country's commercial capital, in the latest attack attributed to militants opposed to military rule. Sai Kyaw Thu, deputy director-general of the military-appointed Union Election Commission, was shot multiple times on Saturday, according to the military's information office, media reports and a statement of responsibility from an urban guerrilla group. The information office on Sunday said the attack was carried out by the People's Defense Force, the loosely organized armed wing of the pro-democracy National Unity Government, an underground group that opposes the military-installed government that was established when the army seized power two years ago. Many opposition forces including local People's Defense Force groups operate autonomously from the National Unity Government but the military labels them all as "terrorists." A resistance group calling itself "For The Yangon" said it carried out the attack on Sai Kyaw Thu, a former lieutenant colonel.

#### Heat wave in Thailand prompts warning to stay indoors

**BANGKOK** (AP)—Extreme heat has sent temperatures soaring in Thailand as authorities warned people to stay indoors. The Meteorological Department's forecast on Saturday said the highest temperature in the next 24 hours could reach 43 degrees Celsius (107 degrees Fahrenheit) in country's north and could hit 40 C (104 F) in the capital, Bangkok. The highest temperature on Saturday was in the northern province of Phetchabun at 42.5 C (109 F). "Even if I turn the air con-

ditioning to 20 degrees, I still sweat," said 37-year-old Supichaya Jittaleela, who attended an outdoor political rally despite the heat. People should be wary of extremely high temperatures as well as sudden summer storms until at least next week, the weather department said. A police officer directing traffic in Samut Prakarn, a province just south of Bangkok, collapsed and died of heart stroke, media reported this week. Saturday's highest heat index—which measures what the temperature feels like due to humidity—was forecast to be 53.8 C (129 F) in the eastern province of Chonburi. On Sunday, the southern resort island of Phuket could feel hotter than 54 C.

#### 39 bodies dug up in cult probe of pastor in Kenya

**NAIROBI, Kenya** (AP)—Thirty-nine bodies have been found so far on land owned by a pastor in coastal Kenya who was arrested for telling his followers to fast to death. Malindi sub-county police chief John Kemboi said that more shallow graves have yet to be dug up on the land belonging to pastor Paul Makenzi, who was arrested on April 14 over links to cultism. The total death toll is 43, because a further four people died after they and others were discovered starving at the Good News International Church last week. Police have asked a court to allow them to hold Makenzi longer as investigations into the deaths of his followers continue.

A tipoff from members of the public led police to raid the pastor's property in Malindi, where they found 15 emaciated people, including the four who later died. The followers said they were starving on the pastor's instructions in order to meet Jesus. Police had been told there were dozens of shallow graves spread across Makenzi's farm and digging started on Friday.

*In Celebration of Her New Life*

## †Pilar (Pi\*) Mangloña Deleon Guerrero

Born to life August 14, 1946

Was called by her Creator on  
Wednesday April 19, 2023 at the age of 76

In Memory of our Beloved Mother, Grandmother, and Great Grandmother

In her new life, she joins her:

Parents (†): Manuel Ada & Juana M. Mangloña  
Son (†): Glenn Mangloña Deleon Guerrero  
Sister (†): Rosina M. Mangloña  
Parents-In-Law (†): Juan G & Guadalupe Rogolifo Deleon Guerrero  
Siblings (†): Joaquin Duenas, Jose Duenas and Rosina M. Mangloña

Her memories will live in the hearts of her:

Husband: Pedro Rogolifo Deleon Guerrero  
Children: Peter Mangloña Deleon Guerrero (Nicole, Shane, Niomi (son) & Naleina)  
John C. & Arlene Deleon Guerrero Carbuilido (Natasha Deleon Guerrero Carbuilido & Edwin Aponte (EJ & Xander) and Justine Deleon Guerrero Carbuilido)  
Dolly Jean Tkel (Latrel, Sohayla, Aisha & Lorenzo Glenn)  
John Mangloña Deleon Guerrero Elizabeth Angeline Peters Ichiro Fatima Guinto

Reared daughter: Caregiver:

Henry O. (†) & Regina Mangloña Sablan & Children  
James M. & Joyce B. Mangloña & children  
Thomas M. Mangloña & Children

Brothers & Sisters-In-Laws:

† Herman Rogolifo & † Lucia Peters Deleon Guerrero & children  
† Antonio Rogolifo & Pricilla Leon Guerrero & children  
† Dr. Michael L. & Consalacion (Connie) Rogolifo Kenny & Children  
† Marcus Taisacan & Diana Faisao & family

Special Friend: Teresita Aldan & Lava Jr. To'mata

†Pilar will also be in the hearts and thoughts of numerous Aunties, Uncles, Cousins, Nieces, Nephews, Godchildren and friends.

On April 27, 2023, her remains will be escorted from the Borja Funeral Home to Our Lady of Mt Carmel Cathedral at 7:30 a.m. Responso, Holy Rosary and Visitation will follow upon arrival at the church. Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. followed by interment service at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery where she will be laid to rest.

Un Dangkulo Na Si Yu's Ma'ase and Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

*Peter, Arlene, Glen (†), John & family*

# Overdrive

## Auto review: 2023 Kia Telluride still tops the charts

By MARC D. GRASSO  
BOSTON HERALD

With Kia delivered outstanding vehicles in 2022, and this year looks to be no different. Their flagship Telluride delivers a huge bang for the buck and gets even better with additional models and availability.

Our week-long tester was a 2023 Kia Telluride SX-Prestige X-Pro AWD. That's a whole lot of letters in that name, but it's a vehicle I think you will come to enjoy. Back in January 2022, we experienced the Telluride SX-Prestige, which gained a lot of traction with readers of this column. With the X-Pro additions in 2023, reviewing this was a must.

In a word, the X-Pro is awesome! Additions to last year's test model don't include powertrain adjustments, yet we note 18-inch black wheels, all-terrain tires, exterior color offset styling, increased towing capacity, self-leveling rear suspension and tow-mode. These features, in addition to a 110V inverter outlet, make the Telluride perfect for weekend camping trips.

The Telluride X-Pro package adds 500 pounds of towing making it a total of 5,500 pounds. Similar to Honda's Passport TrailSport, the Telluride X-Pro has a beefier look, but one that has a lot of appeal. Adding the X-Pro features to the already great Telluride just makes this vehicle that much more appealing. Telluride is a chart-topper in the 7-passenger SUV category and in Grasso's Garage as well.



The 2023 Kia Telluride with a 12.3" infotainment screen that was easy to use.



The 20x23 Kia Telluride.

Wrapped in Midnight Lake Blue and with a Terracotta interior, our tester was flawless. It had second-row captain's seats, great storage space, and an easy-to-use 12.3-inch infotainment screen. Next to Stellantis with

its UConnect system, Kia certainly has figured out usability for infotainment.

I have been a longstanding fan of the Kia Telluride; I have recommended to families, as it really fits most situations.

### TC NUTS & BOLTS

- 2023 Kia Telluride SX-Prestige X-Pro AWD
- MSRP: \$52,785
- MPG: 18 city / 24 highway / 22.2 As Tested
- As Tested: \$55,120

## Motormouth: Where's my second key fob?

**Q:** We took delivery of a new Toyota in late 2022. The dealer gave us only one key fob and said that the second would be delivered sometime later. We are at four months now and still no key fob. I have checked with the dealer every month and get the same "I don't know" answer. Do your contacts have any idea when we might see them?

**E.M., St. Charles, Illinois**

**A:** I'm afraid I can't twist any arms. But if you are getting stonewalled by the salesperson or parts department, ask to see the dealer principal. If that gets you nowhere and you desperately need another fob, they are available online, but need a locksmith or car dealer to program them.

**Q:** Thank you for your continuing column on automotive advice. I worked on cars a lot when I was in my teen years and early 20s, and I appreciate the details and common sense that you offer. I have questions about my vehicle's timing chain. When I saw your column (published in 2021), it reinvigorated some of the discussions I had about the timing setup for my 2005 Toyota Scion xB. I noted at the time that it was a timing chain (like the triple primary drive chain on my Harley, with metal links as I imagined it). Does the fact that Toyota calls it a chain make a difference in wear and tear and longevity? Do you have any specific replace-

ment advice for a car such as this with 210,000 miles on it? I have seen posting of people's cars with over 400,000 miles, and so I hope to keep it for quite some time.

**P.C., Clarendon Hills, Illinois**

**A:** Timing chains traditionally have no service interval. They last the life of the vehicle. Keep on motoring!

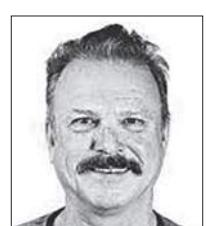
**Q:** I am an ASE-certified Master mechanic with 30 years of Cadillac dealer experience and I can't tell you how many oil economy tests I have performed on customers' cars equipped with the infamous HT4100, HT4500, HT4900 engines. I hope this information will shed some light on oil economy usage. One quart per every 1,000 miles is the industry standard. All modern engines use oil, some more than others as you stated, but here is the main reason why. As manufacturer's look for more ways to increase fuel economy, one way is to reduce internal engine drag from the rotating components, mainly the great amount of drag from the pistons going up and down in the cylinders. So, they reduced the amount of tension on all the piston rings thereby creating a rotating assembly that turns over much more freely and causes the engine to operate much more efficiently.

**L.C., Chicago**

**A:** Th-th-that's it, folks. Check your oil levels regularly.

### MOTORMOUTH

By BOB WEBER  
Tribune News Service



Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. Weber's work has appeared in professional trade magazines and various consumer publications including Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.

**Q:** Your comment about the minimum amount of space (10 inches) to have between the steering wheel and the driver prompts me to ask about a related issue: Both of my sons-in-law like to drive with their seat tilted back quite far. It has occurred to me that if their airbag deployed it would smack them in the face rather than the chest. This seems dangerous to me, both in terms of the injury that it could cause them, and the airbag being less effective generally than it should be.

**B.C., Minneapolis**

**A:** In the blink of an eye, the airbag inflates, but stays put. The passenger then flies into the bag.

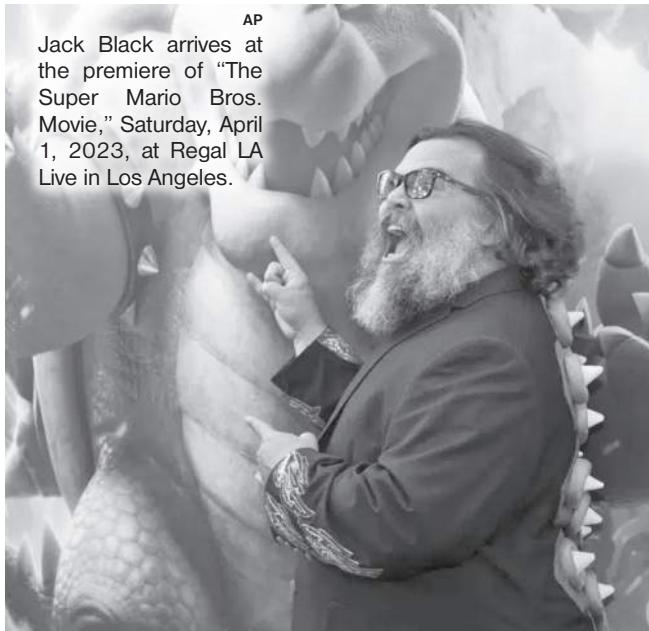
# Life & Style

## Wahoo! 'The Super Mario Bros. Movie' is No. 1 for third week

NEW YORK (AP)—“The Super Mario Bros. Movie” continued to rack up coins at the box office, leading ticket sales for the third straight weekend, as the animation hit neared \$1 billion after just 18 days in theaters.

The weekend’s top new release, the horror reboot “Evil Dead Rise” debuted solidly, launching with \$23.5 million, according to studio estimates Sunday. But that was no match for Universal Pictures’ “The Super Mario Bros. Movie,” which grossed \$58.2 million in its third weekend.

“The Super Mario Bros. Movie” is setting a torrid pace for an animated movie. This week, it became the highest-grossing animated released of the pandemic era, with domestic ticket sales up to \$434.3 million through Sunday and its global tally at \$871.1 mil-



AP  
Jack Black arrives at the premiere of “The Super Mario Bros. Movie,” Saturday, April 1, 2023, at Regal LA Live in Los Angeles.

lion. When “The Super Mario Bros. Movie” soon passes \$1 billion worldwide, it will be just the fourth film of the pandemic era to reach that benchmark, following “Spider-

Man: No Way Home,” “Top Gun Maverick” and “Avatar: The Way of Water.”

“Evil Dead Rise,” From Warner Bros. and New Line, is the fifth installment (and

amid tumbling ratings.

CNN chairman and CEO Chris Licht said in a statement that the show “will be an exciting new way we are delivering culturally relevant programming and unique perspectives to our audience, from two incredibly dynamic personalities.”

Licht said King will continue to anchor “CBS Mornings,” and former NBA star Barkley will continue his current role at Warner Bros. Discovery Sports.

Appearing on TNT to discuss the new show, King said she hadn’t been looking for an additional job but relished the chance to work with Barkley.

first in a decade) in the thriller franchise that Sam Raimi began with this 1981 ultra-low-budget classic, “Evil Dead.” Though Raimi’s subsequent and much-adored films starring Bruce Campbell grew increasingly slapstick, marrying comedy and horror, the 2013 reboot and “Evil Dead Rise” (with Raimi as an executive producer) rely on chillier frights.

“Evil Dead Rise,” which had a reported budget of \$17 million, also had originally been planned as an HBO Max release. When Warner Bros. decided direct-to-streaming films weren’t financially appealing, it pushed some films—including “Magic Mike’s Last Dance” and “House Party”—to theaters, and simply canned a few others including “Batgirl” and “Scoob! Holiday Haunt.”

Amazon Studios’ “Air,” likewise initially was intended to go straight to streaming, has

also continued to perform well theatrically. The Ben Affleck-directed film, about Nike’s courting of Michael Jordan, dipped a modest 29% in its third weekend with \$5.5 million to bring its cumulative total to \$41.3 million.

But while horror remains one of the most dependable genres at the box office, and families—after a long dry spell of all-audience releases—have flocked to “Super Mario,” some adult-oriented releases have continued to have a harder time attracting audiences.

Guy Ritchie’s “The Covenant,” starring Jake Gyllenhaal as an injured army sergeant in Afghanistan, opened with \$6.3 million in 2,611 theaters. But with mostly good reviews (81% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes) and an “A” CinemaScore from ticket buyers, the MGM release may hold well in coming weeks.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. **“Super Mario Bros.”** \$58.2 million.
2. **“Evil Dead Rise.”** \$23.5 million.
3. **“The Covenant.”** \$6.3 million.
4. **“John Wick: Chapter 4.”** \$5.8 million.
5. **“Air.”** \$5.5 million.
6. **“Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves.”** \$5.4 million.
7. **“The Pope’s Exorcist.”** \$3.3 million.
8. **“Renfield.”** \$3.1 million.
9. **“Beau Is Afraid.”** \$2.7 million.
10. **“Suzume.”** \$1.6 million.

### Seeking a rebound, CNN turns to Charles Barkley, Gayle King



AP  
This photo file combo shows from left, Charles Barkley and Gayle King. TV hosts King and Barkley will headline a new primetime weekly CNN show. The network made the announcement Saturday, April 22, 2023.

NEW YORK (AP)—TV personalities Gayle King and Charles Barkley will headline a new prime-time weekly

CNN show, “King Charles,” debuting in the fall, the network announced Saturday as it tries to engineer a turnaround

### NBCUniversal CEO Shell departs over ‘inappropriate conduct’



NEW YORK (AP)—Jeff Shell, the chief executive of NBCUniversal and one of the media industry’s renowned executives, is departing the company after an investigation into inappropriate conduct, parent company Comcast announced Sunday.

In a brief statement, Shell said Sunday would be his last day after what he called “an inappropriate relationship with a woman in the company.”

“I’m truly sorry I let my Comcast and NBCUniversal colleagues down, they are the most talented people in the business and the opportunity

to work with them the last 19 years has been a privilege,” said Shell, who has been CEO of NBCUniversal since January 2020.

He joins a number of media industry executives who have left their posts in recent years over inappropriate relations, including others at NBCUniversal. Three years ago, NBCUniversal Vice Chairman Ron Meyer, a Hollywood power player, left the company after revealing he received threats of extortion following a settlement with a woman with whom he had an affair.

### Long marriage has crumbled to threats and bitterness

**D**EAR ABBY: I’d like some advice about a family situation that has been going on for the entire 34 years of my marriage. My husband is not kind to my now-grown sons. He gives me the silent treatment for weeks over small disagreements. My eldest son visited us for my 75th birthday and, after receiving my spouse’s cold shoulder, he informed me he won’t be visiting again because of my husband’s rude behavior.

I’m looking for a part-time job so I can pay off some bills and move out. I asked years ago that we put the house up for sale, divide the funds and go our separate ways. He said he’d burn down the house before he would allow me to get a penny from the sale.

I want to keep things calm, but I want to leave in another year with some proceeds from the sale of the house. We no longer sleep together and we talk less to avoid disagreements. I don’t even want to cook for him, but I do it to avoid his negative reactions. What can I do?

#### REACHED MY LIMIT IN CALIFORNIA

**DEAR REACHED:** Quietly consult an attorney and discuss the fact that you are in a very long, unhappy and emotionally abusive marriage. Tell the attorney your husband has threatened to burn down the home you share (that’s arson) if it must be sold so you can have the half of the community property to which you are entitled. The attorney can

guide you in gathering information such as bank account numbers, credit information and investments, if there are any, so your husband will be less able to hide financial assets.

**If you fear your husband might become violent, contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline (800-799-7233) for help formulating a safe exit plan, and follow the instructions you are given. It’s never too late to seek peace and happiness in your life, and I wish you luck.**

■■■■

**DEAR ABBY:** My son married a woman who has isolated him from his family and friends. We were an incredibly close family until he married her. They have a 5-year-old daughter who has been out of our lives for some time and it breaks my heart. During the times they were in our lives, we were always criticized for everything we said and did, and my son never talked to us or saw us without his wife there.

He was very close to his sister growing up but no longer has anything to do with her. I know it breaks her heart that her brother and niece are no longer in her life. A friend suggested I write a journal to hopefully show my granddaughter someday so she will know we always loved and missed her and her dad. I worry about my son no longer having his family and friends in his life, but I’m not sure what to do.

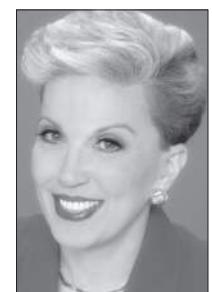
#### HEARTBROKEN IN OREGON

**DEAR HEARTBROKEN:** Your idea of keeping a journal

### DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



is a good one. But don’t write in it hoping it will be seen by your granddaughter. Do it for yourself so you have an outlet into which you can pour the pain and frustration you are feeling. If you can’t be with your grandchild, consider exploring opportunities in your community to mentor needy children, which can be rewarding not only for the children, but also for yourself.

■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



# Curry, Warriors hold off Kings 126-125 to even series 2-all

**SAN FRANCISCO** (AP)—First, Draymond Green suggested to Warriors coach Steve Kerr that he come off the bench for Game 4 against the Sacramento Kings after Golden State had played so brilliantly without him.

Then at halftime Sunday, a couple of assistant coaches offered up the idea to Kerr that Green should defend De'Aaron Fox for the final two quarters.

Those collaborative, spot-on moves helped overshadow a late blunder, and now the defending champions are all tied up in their first-round playoff series at two games apiece.

Stephen Curry scored 32 points but gave Sacramento a late chance when he called a timeout Golden State didn't have, then the Warriors held on to beat the Kings 126-125 on Sunday when Harrison Barnes missed a 3-pointer at the buzzer.

"These games are coming down to the wire, and you've



Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) celebrates with forward Draymond Green after the Warriors defeated the Sacramento Kings in Game 4 in the first round of the NBA basketball playoffs in San Francisco, Sunday, April 23, 2023.

just got to really finish possessions and try to give yourself the best chance, and then sometimes, it's just, does the ball go in or not," Kerr said.

Fox had 38 points, nine rebounds and five assists for

Sacramento. His 3 with 28.7 seconds left pulled the Kings within one, then Curry missed a 16-foot jumper on the other end and Keegan Murray corralled the rebound. With Curry and Green defending, Fox dished to former Warrior Barnes for the potential game-winning 3, which hit the back of the rim.

"Wide open," Barnes said. "Fox trusted me to take that shot. Back rim. On to the next but I feel confident in where we are."

Golden State led 126-121 with 42.4 seconds left when Curry called the excessive timeout, and Malik Monk made the technical free throw for Sacramento.

Klay Thompson made a baseline 3-pointer to beat the third-quarter buzzer and another with 3:24 left, finishing with 26 points for the Warriors.

Game 5 in the best-of-seven series is Wednesday night at Sacramento's Golden 1 Center, where the Kings went ahead 2-0. The Warriors struggled on the road all year.

And he was still third on

BOSTON (AP)—The Boston Celtics asked Malcolm Brogdon to learn a new role. He mastered it quickly.

Brogdon was honored Thursday night as the NBA's sixth man of the year, after a season in which he came off the bench exclusively and helped the Celtics finish with the second-best record in the NBA.

It's the second major individual award of Brogdon's career: The 30-year-old guard was rookie of the year in 2016-17.

"This is such an honor. It has definitely been a transition for me, coming from Indiana to Boston," said Brogdon, who had started every game the past four years in the NBA before embracing his role to come off the bench when he was acquired by the Celtics. "My last two seasons, they weren't super successful, so for me that was another gut check for me in understanding that maybe I'm not a No. 1 guy but I can be a great No. 2, 3 or 4."

Brogdon beat out fellow finalists Immanuel Quickley of New York and Bobby Portis of Milwaukee, receiving 60 of 100 first-place votes and 408 points overall from a media panel. Quickley was second at 326, getting 34 first-place votes. Portis had six first-place votes and 97 points.

Brogdon averaged 14.9 points, 4.2 rebounds and 3.7

assists; among those who played primarily off the bench this season, only the Los Angeles Clippers' Russell Westbrook finished with better averages in those three categories.

The Celtics sent a significant package—five players and a first-round draft pick—to Indiana last summer for Brogdon, with this specific off-the-bench role in mind even though he had started in each of his last 210 regular-season appearances. He played in 67 games for the Celtics, all off the bench.

And he was still third on Boston in points per game, behind only All-NBA candidates Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown. When Brogdon made at least 50% of his shots from the field, the Celtics were 26-9—and 13-0 when he shot at least 63%.

"Coming to Boston and playing behind JT, behind JB, these guys are proven All-Stars and soon to be All-NBA guys," Brogdon said. "It's definitely a good fit for me."

Sixth man was the fourth individual honor announced by the league so far this season, following the reveals of Memphis' Jaren Jackson Jr. as defensive player of the year, Sacramento's De'Aaron Fox as the inaugural winner of the clutch player award, and Kings coach Mike Brown as a unanimous pick for coach of

the year.

Game 5 in the best-of-seven series is Wednesday night at Sacramento's Golden 1 Center, where the Kings went ahead 2-0. The Warriors struggled on the road all year.

And he was still third on

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Memphis agitator Dillon Brooks believes his image as an NBA villain contributed to the decision to eject him from Game 3 of the Grizzlies' playoff series with the Los Angeles Lakers after he struck LeBron James in the groin.

Brooks said Sunday his flagrant foul 2 was an accident, and he believes his reputation in the media and among the basketball public were factors in his ejection from the third quarter of Memphis' 111-101 loss Saturday night.

"The media making me a villain, the fans making me a villain and then that just creates a whole different persona

on me," Brooks told reporters after the Grizzlies' off-day shootaround at USC's Galen Center.

Brooks struck James just 17 seconds into the second half, and he was ejected after a brief video review. Brooks' teammates tried to argue after the game that Brooks' flagrant foul had been unintentional.

Brooks was ejected from a game for the third time this season, delighting a Lakers home crowd that had been booing his every move since pregame warmups. He did not receive a suspension for the act.

Game 4 is Monday in Los Angeles.

ovation with 6:38 left in the opening quarter and wound up with 12 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists. He and Fox picked up double technicals at the 5:43 mark of the first.

Sabonis added 14 points, seven rebounds and eight assists and now heads home determined to get the Kings closer to winning their first playoff series since eliminating Dallas in the 2004 first round.

"We made some timely mistakes, especially in the fourth quarter," coach Mike Brown said. "This is where our playoff inexperience comes into play because you can't rest out there, or you can't think that you can play something a certain way and the champions are not going to make you pay the price."

Poole scored 22 points, Andrew Wiggins added 18 points, eight rebounds and four blocked shots, and Kevon Looney pulled down 14 rebounds to go with eight points and six assists.

## KNICKS 102, CAVALIERS 93

NEW YORK (AP)—Jalen Brunson scored 29 points, RJ Barrett had 26 and the New York Knicks took a 3-1 lead over the Cleveland Cavaliers in their first-round series with a 102-93 victory on Sunday.

Josh Hart moved into the starting lineup and added 19 points and seven rebounds for the fifth-seeded Knicks, who would reach the second round for the first time since 2013 if they take this series.

New York forced Cleveland All-Star Donovan Mitchell into one of the worst games of his postseason career, finishing with just 11 points on 5-for-18 shooting.

Darius Garland had 23 points and 10 assists for the Cavs, while Jarrett Allen and Caris LeVert each scored 14.

Game 5 is Wednesday in Cleveland.

## CELTICS 129, HAWKS 121

ATLANTA (AP)—Jaylen Brown and Jayson Tatum each scored 31 points and Boston led nearly the entire way, holding off Atlanta for a commanding 3-1 lead in the opening-round playoff series.

The Celtics can deliver the clincher Tuesday night when the series returns to Boston for Game 5.

Tatum and Brown combined to score Boston's final 16 points.

Brown has been wearing a protective mask after sustaining facial contusions in February. He took off the device after making only 1 of 7 shots and went 11 of 15 the rest of the way.

Trae Young led Atlanta with 35 points.

## TIMBERWOLVES 114, NUGGETS 108, OT

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Anthony Edwards scored 34 points, Karl-Anthony Towns had 17 points and 11 rebounds, and Minnesota avoided a four-game sweep.

Nikola Jokic tied a playoff career high with 43 points and added 11 rebounds and six assists for the Nuggets.

Rudy Gobert added 14 points and 15 rebounds for Minnesota, which held on after Denver scored the final 12 points of regulation to force overtime. Mike Conley had 19 points for the Timberwolves.

Jamal Murray finished with 19 points and Aaron Gordon 14 for Denver, which looked prime to have a chance to rest before the second round where it would face the winner of the Suns-Clippers series, which Phoenix leads 3-1.

Game 5 is Tuesday in Denver.

## Dillon Brooks: Image was factor in ejection for LeBron blow

Brooks led the NBA with 18 technical fouls this season, earning a pair of one-game suspensions in the process. He described his own playing philosophy last week as: "I poke bears," and he made headlines across the league by dismissively calling James "old" even though the 27-year-old Brooks is the oldest active player on his own roster.

Brooks was ejected from a game for the third time this season, delighting a Lakers home crowd that had been booing his every move since pregame warmups. He did not receive a suspension for the act.

Brooks and James have jostled verbally in the past two games of the series, but James hasn't said anything publicly about Brooks.

Brooks also got tossed for striking Cleveland's Donovan Mitchell in the groin in Febru-

ary. He was even thrown out of a playoff game last season for a flagrant foul on Golden State's Gary Payton II, earning another suspension.

Yet Brooks apparently believes he has been miscast as a villain for the past two years, and he intends to prove his haters wrong by improving as a player. He has struggled against the Lakers, and he was 3-for-13 with little defensive impact at the time of his ejection from Game 3.

"It doesn't matter to me," Brooks said. "I'm going to keep playing my game and get better and better each and every day and as long as my career goes."

# NL-best Pirates win 7th straight for best start in 31 years



P I T T S -  
B U R G H  
( A P ) —  
V i n c e

Velasquez struck out 10 in seven innings and the Pittsburgh Pirates blanked the Cincinnati Reds 2-0 on Sunday for their seventh consecutive victory.

The surprising Pirates moved into first place in the NL Central and improved to 16-7—the top record in the National League—for the franchise's best start since its last division title in 1992.

It was the most strikeouts for Velasquez (3-2) since May 10, 2018, when he had 12 for the Phillies against the Giants. He allowed two hits and walked two.

David Bednar struck out two in the ninth for his eighth save, finishing a four-hitter.

Hunter Greene (0-1) pitched six innings of one-run ball for the Reds, who have dropped six in a row.

## RED SOX 12, BREWERS 5

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Masaoka Yoshida homered twice during Boston's nine-run outburst in the eighth inning against Milwaukee.

Justin Turner and Yoshida started the eighth with back-to-back homers off Matt Bush (0-1) that gave the Red Sox a 5-4 lead. Yoshida then capped the inning with a grand slam off Javy Guerra.

Yoshida also had a sacrifice fly in the first and finished with six RBIs. He became the fifth Red Sox player to homer twice in one inning, and first since Hall of Fame slugger David Ortiz in August 2008.

Yoshida is the fourth rookie in major league history to hit two home runs in an inning and the first since Joe Pepitone for the New York Yankees in 1962, according to ESPN Stats & Info.

Boston bounced back after blowing an early 3-0 lead to move above .500 and win the weekend series. Kaleb Ort (1-0) got the victory.

Brian Anderson went deep twice for the Brewers.

## RAYS 4, WHITE SOX 1

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Zach Eflin pitched five effective innings in his return from the injured list and Tampa Bay hit two more home runs, beating slumping Chicago for its 13th consecutive home win to begin the season.

Tampa Bay (19-3) tied the 2009 Los Angeles Dodgers for the second-longest home winning streak to start a season since 1901. The 1907 New York Giants opened with 15 straight wins at home.

Luke Raley and Harold Ramirez went deep for the Rays, who have homered in

each of their first 22 games—extending their major league record. Tampa Bay has 48 home runs, second-most in big league history through 22 games behind the 2000 St. Louis Cardinals (52).

Eflin (3-0) allowed one run and three hits in a game that took only 2 hours, 2 minutes. Yonny Chirinos followed with three perfect innings. Peter Fairbanks worked a 1-2-3 ninth to get his third save and run his team-record scoreless streak to 29 innings.

Eloy Jiménez had an RBI double for the White Sox, who have lost nine of 11 and are 7-15 overall. Lucas Giolito (1-2) gave up four runs in seven innings.

## BLUE JAYS 5, YANKEES 1

NEW YORK (AP)—Kevin Gausman struck out 11 in seven shutout innings, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. and Daulton Varsho hit back-to-back homers following an error by rookie shortstop Anthony Volpe, and Toronto handed New York its first series loss this season.

The Blue Jays won for the 12th time in 18 games, taking two of three in the Bronx. The Yankees had won or split their first six series, their longest streak to start a season since 2003.

New York had been 11-0 when facing a series loss and was the only major league team that hadn't dropped a series this year.

Gausman (2-2) bounced back nicely from allowing eight runs Monday at Houston and held the Yankees to three hits.

Guerrero hit a two-run drive in the sixth off Clarke Schmidt (0-2) for his second homer of the series.

Anthony Rizzo homered in the ninth as the Yankees avoided being shut out for the first time this year.

## RANGERS 5, ATHLETICS 2

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Jacob deGrom struck out 11 in six innings, showing no ill effects from the right wrist soreness that forced an early exit from his prior start, as AL West-leading Texas beat major league-worst Oakland.

Robbie Grossman hit a three-run homer and finished with four RBIs.

DeGrom (2-0) allowed three hits and walked none, giving up a two-run homer to Shea Langeliers. Will Smith worked a scoreless ninth to complete the five-hitter and earn his second save.

Kyle Muller (0-2) gave up four runs in five innings.

## ASTROS 5, BRAVES 2

ATLANTA (AP)—Yordan



Pittsburgh Pirates players celebrate after getting the final out of a win over the Cincinnati Reds in a baseball game in Pittsburgh, Sunday, April 23, 2023.

Alvarez tied the game with a two-run single in the eighth inning, pinch-hitter Corey Julks had a go-ahead single in the ninth and Houston won its fourth straight.

Atlanta's skid reached four games for the first time since August 2021.

Alvarez's two-out, bases-loaded hit off A.J. Minter (1-2) made it 2-all. Julks singled to left-center off Minter in the ninth.

Hector Neris (2-1) worked a scoreless eighth and Bryan Abreu pitched the ninth for his second save.

## GIANTS 5, METS 4

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Joc Pederson scored from first base on Mike Yastrzemski's one-out double in the eighth inning, sending San Francisco past New York.

Activated off the injured list before the game, Pederson drove in the Giants' first run with a single in the first and then started the winning rally with a walk against Drew Smith (1-1).

Thairo Estrada hit his fourth home run for the Giants, who won their second straight to split the four-game series.

Touted rookie Francisco Álvarez homered for the Mets.

Scott Alexander (2-0) worked a perfect eighth and Camilo Doval earned his second save.

## PHILLIES 9, ROCKIES 3

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Trea Turner hit one of Philadelphia's four home runs and Zack Wheeler struck out 11 in six innings to lead Philadelphia over Colorado.

Turner and Kody Clemens each had a solo homer. Bryson Stott and Brandon Marsh connected for two-run shots.

The Phillies took the final three games of a four-game

series and have won six of eight overall. Wheeler (2-1) finished with his 17th career double-digit strikeout game and ninth with the Phillies.

Rockies starter José Ureña (0-4) gave up four runs and walked four without a strikeout in 3 2/3 innings.

## GUARDIANS 7, MARLINS 4

CLEVELAND (AP)—Logan Allen struck out eight over six innings in his major league debut and his Cleveland teammates helped him get the win over Miami.

The 24-year-old lefty, called up from Triple-A Columbus before the game, allowed five hits and walked one. He gave up a solo homer to Jon Berti in the third.

Amed Rosario went 4 for 5 with a triple and a double while scoring three runs for the Guardians. José Ramírez had four RBIs, and he and Josh Bell hit back-to-back homers in the third.

Jesús Luzardo (2-1) took the loss. Avisail García hit a three-run homer for the Marlins.

## DODGERS 7, CUBS 3

CHICAGO (AP)—Mookie Betts homered and drove in four runs in his first career start at shortstop, leading Los Angeles past Chicago.

Max Muncy and J.D. Martinez also connected as the Dodgers took three of four in the series at Wrigley Field. Clayton Kershaw (4-1) pitched six innings of three-hit ball in career win No. 201.

Betts, a six-time Gold Glove winner in right field who made his big league debut in 2014, hit a tying, two-run shot off Marcus Stroman (2-2) in the third inning. He also lined a two-run double to left in the ninth.

Yan Gomes hit a solo homer for the Cubs, who won two of

three at Dodger Stadium last weekend. Cody Bellinger collected two more hits against his former team, including a run-scoring single.

Brusdar Graterol pitched two innings for his first save.

## ORIOLES 2, TIGERS 1, 10 INNINGS

BALTIMORE (AP)—Adam Frazier dashed home on a wild pitch by Mason Englert (0-1) in the bottom of the 10th inning to lift Baltimore over Detroit for its sixth straight victory.

The Orioles won for the 10th time in 12 games, this time on a day when Detroit lefty Eduardo Rodriguez retired the first 20 Baltimore hitters. Keegan Akin (1-1) kept the Tigers off the scoreboard in the top of 10th.

The Tigers left 13 runners on base, including three in the 10th.

Rodriguez's bid for a perfect game was broken up by Ryan Mountcastle's two-out single in the seventh, but that was the only baserunner he allowed in seven innings.

Spencer Torkelson hit a sacrifice fly for the Tigers in the eighth, but pinch-hitter Anthony Santander doubled home a run to tie it in the bottom half.

## TWINS 3, NATIONALS 1

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Jorge Polanco homered and Bailey Ober pitched three-hit ball into the sixth inning as Minnesota defeated Washington.

Michael A. Taylor also connected for the Twins, who won for just the second time in eight games after a 10-4 start. Polanco had three hits, while Ryan Jeffers and Jose Miranda each had two.

The Nationals finished with three hits after getting 15 in Saturday's 10-4 win. Keibert Ruiz had an RBI double in the first.

Ober (1-0) struck out four and walked three in 5 2/3 innings. Jhoan Duran worked a 1-2-3 ninth for his fifth save.

Patrick Corbin (1-3) permitted three runs in six innings.

## PADRES 7, DIAMONDBACKS 5

PHOENIX (AP)—Yu Darvish pitched effectively into the sixth inning before leaving with leg cramps, and San Diego beat Arizona.

Darvish (1-2) had the Diamondbacks beating balls into the ground most of the afternoon, allowing two hits in 5 2/3 innings. He left two pitches into an at-bat by Pavin Smith after San Diego's trainer checked on his right leg.

Matt Carpenter homered for the Padres and drove in five runs. Jake Cronenworth scored twice and drove in two runs. Josh Hader worked a perfect ninth for his eighth save.

Alek Thomas, Nick Ahmed and Jake McCarthy homered for Arizona. Drew Jameson (2-1) allowed three runs and three hits in one inning.

## CARDINALS 7, MARINERS 3

SEATTLE (AP)—Lars Nootbaar homered on the first pitch of the game, Nolan Gorman added a three-run shot and St. Louis beat Seattle to prevent a three-game sweep.

Paul DeJong also went deep in his season debut, finishing with three hits after returning from the injured list. Jack Flaherty (2-2) recovered from early trouble to pitch six solid innings with nine strikeouts for the Cardinals.

Nootbaar connected on the first pitch from Mariners starter Chris Flexen (0-4).

Jared Kelenic homered for the second consecutive day and Ty France had a two-run single for Seattle.

## ANGELS 4, ROYALS 3

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Taylor Ward, Mike Trout and Shohei Ohtani hit consecutive homers in the sixth inning, helping Los Angeles top Kansas City.

Trout also had two doubles for the Angels, who managed only one hit in the first five innings against Jordan Lyles (0-4) before the heart of their order unloaded on the Kansas City starter during a nine-pitch span.

Los Angeles hadn't hit back-to-back-to-back homers since June 8, 2019.

MJ Melendez, Vinnie Pasquantino and Bobby Witt Jr. connected for the Royals, who opened their 10-game trip by losing two of three in Anaheim. Kansas City has lost eight of nine and 11 of 13.

Austin Warren (1-0) got the win, and Carlos Estévez earned his third save.

# MHS 1 undefeated heading into v-ball champs

By LEIGH GASES  
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REPORTER

The defending boys volleyball champions Marianas High School Dolphins swept the regular season of the NMIVA-Public School System Boys High School Volleyball League 2022-2023.

They brought the Grace Christian Academy Eagles to their knees in a hotly contested game in the last regular game day of the season last Thursday at the MHS Gymnasium.

The MHS 1 team had dominated all season and it just made sense for them to cruise to an easy victory, but the Eagles were determined to prove their mettle and came out fighting in two tight sets, 21-18, 22-20.

The game was back and forth for the whole duration, with neither team able to pull away, but in the end the Dolphins' experience and skill proved too much for the Eagles and took the last W for an unbeaten season heading into the championship rounds.

The Dolphins' lineup of Mokyang Joseph Kim, Jerome Manzon, William Ariola, Juruel Magtalas, Dylan Mister, and John Justo spiked, blocked, and attacked the Eagles' roster of Seth Balakrishna, Ryan Daproza, Jasper Hall, Noah Lee, Miles Linden, Kyle San Hyun Moon, Akira Ota, Jack Raho, Tristan Raho, Julian Taitano, Jiahao Yang, Sui Yi, and Jiahang Wu.

In other games that day, Agape Christian School 1 stole the W away from No. 2 seed Saipan International School in three nail-biting sets, 18-21, 21-18, 18-16; Saipan Southern



By LEIGH GASES  
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REPORTER

Middle school participants wrapped up their qualifiers in the 14U PSS/McDonald's All Schools Athletics 2022-2023 last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field.

The 14U boys 200m Top 4 in Heat 1 were Christopher Cruz from DanDan Middle School at 25.03; Keeanu Vilanueva from Francisco M. Sablan Middle School at 28.21; Landon Pudney from Saipan International School at 28.46; and Yong Jun Lin from Hopwood Middle School at 30.93 seconds.

Heat 2 was topped by Agape Christian School's Shulun He at 26.6; second was FMS' Changhwan Ryu with a time of 27.33; and third was Tanapag Middle School's Abraham Falig with a time of 27.59 seconds.

Heat 3 Top 3 were Kamron Pangelinan from DMS with a time of 28.45; HMS' Yi Wei

## MS wraps up athletics qualifiers



By LEIGH GASES  
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REPORTER

Middle school runners in the 14U girls 800m Heat 1 take off from the starting line in the last qualifiers of the PSS/McDonald's All Schools Athletics 2022-2023 last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field.

Zou at 29.07; and ChaCha Ocean View Middle School's Jesse Lin with a time of 33.42 seconds.

SIS' Audiescott Iakopo led Heat 4 with a time of 25.94; teammate SIS' Moshia Sikkel with 26.58; and Saipan Community School's Patrick McDonald with a time of 32.1 seconds.

In Heat 5, ACS' Daniel Yang dominated with a time of 27.04; DMS' Peter Camacho was second with 29.1; and

School's Rhodalyn Zandueta took first place with a time of 31.22; Second was DMS' Romalyn Ada with a time of 32.47; and third was TMS' Rayven Quitano at 32.97 seconds.

In Heat 4 Tinian's Ysabella Lenteja was first at 28.35; HMS' Yelynn Ha was second at 31.23; and TMS' Sari Barman was third at 32.08 seconds.

In the 14U 800m boys event, Michael Miller from Grace Christian Academy finished first with a time of 2:19.70; SIS' Moshe Sikkel was second with a time of 02:28.97; third was ACS' Daniel Song at 02:38.50.

In the U14 girls division, Aubrey White was first at 03:05.87; HMS' Yelynn Ha was second with a time of 03:22.09; and third was Rhodalyn Zandueta with a time of 03:22.09.

The 3,000m 14U boys division was topped by ACS' Raffy Cai with 11:20.29; second was teammate Daniel Song at 12:04.14; and third was DMS' Landen Taflinger with a time of 12:21.08.

The girls division was led

High School 1 defeated Kagman High School, 21-17, 21-18; MHS 2 slipped past MHS 3 13-21, 21-18, 15-6; and SIS 2 notched a win against ACS 2 21-10, 21-12.

Third in the standings after MHS 1 and SIS 1 are ACS 1 and GCA with five wins and three losses each; SSHS 1 has an even four wins and four losses; Tinian High School has four wins and three losses; Mount Carmel School 1 has two wins and six losses; KHS is 1-7; and Dr. Rita H. Inos High School has no wins and seven losses.

The double-elimination tournament is slated to begin this Thursday, April 27, and will last until Saturday, April 29.

by DMS' Addalee Taflinger with a finish time of 13:36.35 followed by ACS' Barbara Wang with a time of 13:59.20 and SIS' Faith Arriola with a time of 15:20.57.



In the field event of the 14U boys shot put, first was Kallan Seidler from DMS with a distance of 9.25m; second was KyMani Nabors from TJHS at 8.52m; third was David Ye from SCS with 7.88m.

The girls 14U division was led by Ka'isa San Nicolas from TJHS at 7.24m; teammate Paige Sandbergen at 5.94m; third was Alexa Mempin from DMS at 5.66m.

The last field event was the discus throw and the Top 3 in the 14U boys was Kallan Seidler with 20.99m; DJ Joab from SIS at 20.96m; and Peyton Basa at 20.34m.

In the girls division, Ka'isa San Nicolas topped it again with 17.05; Anastasia Minor from COVMS was second at 16.53; and Paige Sandbergen was third at 16.04.

The middle school and high school championship rounds are scheduled for Friday, May 5, and Saturday, May 6.

judo, karate, netball, powerlifting, rugby 7, rugby league 9, touch rugby, sailing, swimming, table tennis, taekwondo, tennis, triathlon, va'a, volleyball, and weightlifting.

Micronesian Games Council secretary general Joey C. Miranda III last month regretfully informed member island nations that the 10th Micronesian Games in Majuro, Marshall Island has been delayed due to the unreadiness of the host islands' sports facilities.

The Games was supposed to be held in July 2023, but now moved to possibly in 2024. It's the fourth time the Majuro Micro Games has been postponed. It was originally set for July 2022 then first reset to November 2022 before being slated to July 2023. The Micronesian Games was last held in Yap in 2018.

## SHIGEKI

From Page 20

he said. "The time doesn't stop until you hit the water."

"It was a challenging course too. Lots of hills, rough roads, and then a leap into East Bay to complete the splash. For some people the jump into the water was a

real challenge and took some time to gather the nerve. But everyone finished and I think everyone had fun. And that was the goal," said Snyder.

He added that runner "Leo Wania was great. He had another commitment so he came really late but started on his own and joined us at the finish line."

As for Tenorio, he said that

the race was fun.

"I was first nervous about jumping into the East Bay cliff after the 5K run. But when I did, it felt so refreshing and I was able to cool down," he said.

"Even from the beginning, surrounded by green nature, Tapochao mountain view, Laolao ocean view.... I loved it! I'm definitely going

to join again if there's any in the future!"

To view the whole list of results, visit <https://results.raceroster.com/v2/en-US/results/rp6623d2uaf76z3b/results?subEvent=&page=1>

Next on the Run Saipan race schedule is the Saipan International School Star Wars Day Revenge of the 6th on May 6.

H. Aguon 8, Faisao 6, Lizama 6, T. Pangelinan 2, Mettao 2, Nekaihes 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 13-19, 23-32, 43-46, 71-63.

### Third Game

**Save More 74** – Jondoc 11, Ibe 10, Dancel 10, David 8, Escano 7, Solis 6, Lizama 4, Genese 4, Tekiupa 3, Vicente 3, Aganto 3.

**OG Rollers 66** – Palmes 20, Mariano 16, Satur 12, Viana 7, Teregyo 4, Eugenio 2, Jeong 2, Cruz 1.

**Scoring by quarters:** 15-18, 33-34, 54-49, 74-66.

## ALI'I

From Page 20

in 15 points for Unity Trade. Jonathan Limes' 17 markers paced Socho.

In the third game, Save More posted its second straight win after edging OG Rollers, 74-66.

The game was tight from the get-go with OG Rollers leading by only 3 points, 18-15, after the first 10 minutes. It was only a 1-point game at intermission, 34-33, in favor of OG Rollers, before Save More roared back to take a

54-49 spread going to the payoff period.

Mei Ibe and Jet Jondoc led a balanced scoring attack by Save More with 11 markers each, while the 20 points of JayArt Palmes spearheaded OG Rollers in the loss.

Last Thursday, La Mesa Kusina nipped Roil Soil OG, 53-50, in a low-scoring contest in the second game. Earlier, Martech Ol'Aces blasted OG Rollers, 103-65.

### First Game

**Ali'i Blue Haus 84** – De Guzman 16, Arellano 16, Es-

drelon 15, Castro 10, Barrios 8, Talania 6, De Dios 5, Broncano 4, D. Mateo 4, N. Mateo 4.

**Bridge Capital 73** – Mat. Duenas 25, Pangelinan 11, Man. Duenas 9, Perez 8, Docs 7, Bernardo 2, Moises 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 22-7, 41-23, 56-50, 84-73.

### Second Game

**Unity Trade 71** – Ferer 22, Esmores 15, Camacho 12, Agustin 5, Piritcino 4, Lumen 2.

**Socho 63** – Limes 17, M. Aguon 12, G. Pangelinan 10,



Curry, Warriors hold off Kings 126-125 to even series 2-all.  
**PAGE 17**

# Saipan Tribune Sports

MHS 1 undefeated heading into v-ball champs.

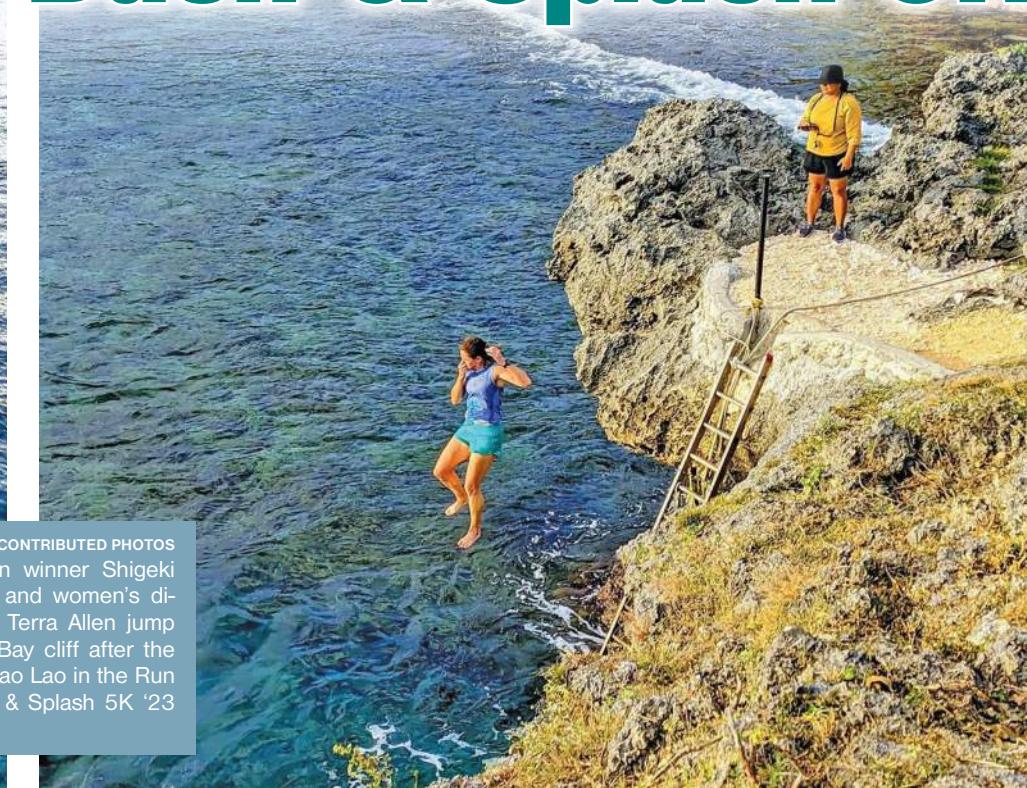
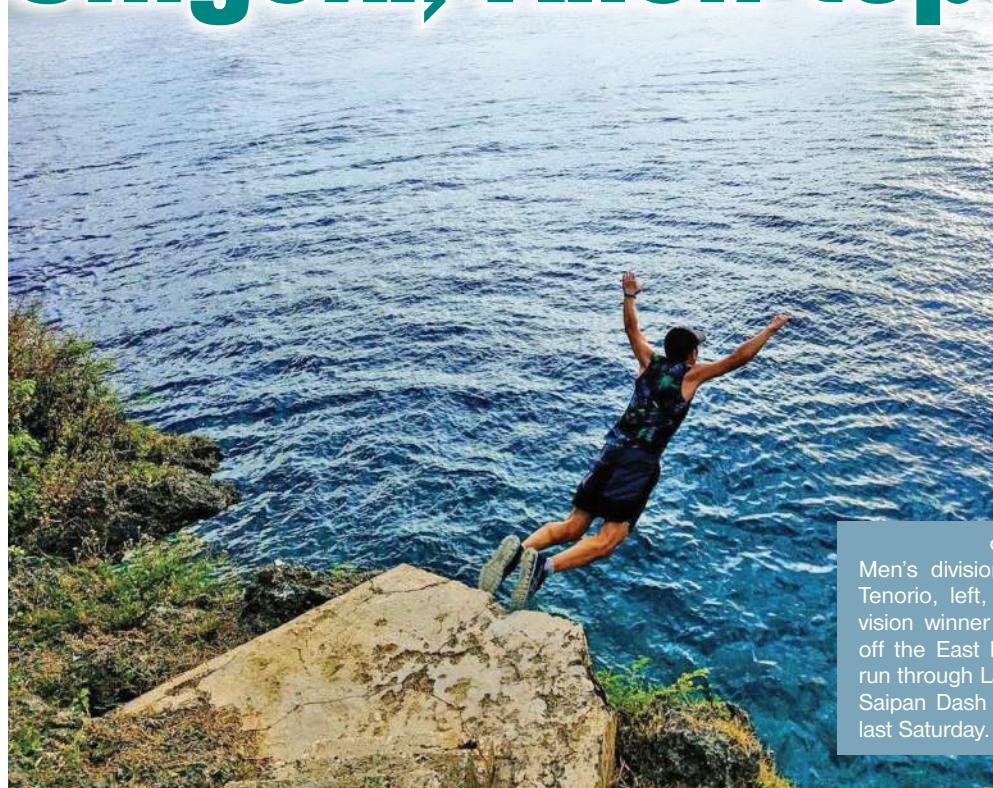
**PAGE 19**



**20** TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2023

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Shigeki, Allen top Dash & Splash 5K



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS  
Men's division winner Shigeki Tenorio, left, and women's division winner Terra Allen jump off the East Bay cliff after the run through Lao Lao in the Run Saipan Dash & Splash 5K '23 last Saturday.

By LEIGH GASES  
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REPORTER

**S**higeki Tenorio and Terra Allen ran an unconventional Run Saipan race last Saturday dubbed the Run Saipan Dash & Splash 5K '23 and won first place in their respective divisions.

Not only were the participants treated to a scenic back-of-the-woods run trail

through the road heading into beautiful East Bay, they ended their race into a splash

of said bay for a much-needed swim.

Tenorio dashed past 14 other participants and was the first with a time of 25:24. In the women's division, Allen dashed and splashed first with a time of 27:20.

Joining Tenorio in the Top 3 in the men's division were Chong Name Lee and Simon Necesito with times

of 27:08 and 29:32, respectively. Runners-up to Allen in the women's division were

Chiharu Sato who clocked in at 33:08 and Elizabeth Church with 38:25.

This race is a Dr. Ron Snyder original and is a staple event dedicated only to the most hardcore of runners. "This wasn't a typical race,"

See SHIGEKI on Page 19



## Ali'i Blue Haus holds off Bridge Capital

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Ali'i Blue Haus toyed with their food before eventually outlasting Bridge Capital LLC, 84-73, in the first game of the 2023 Michelob Ultra Cup Men's Islandwide Basketball League last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The powerhouse team actually got off to a jackrabbit start, taking a lopsided 22-7 lead after the opening quarter and then stretched it to 41-23 at the half-time break.

Complacency, however, got the better of Ali'i at the start of the second half, as it allowed a cascade of points from Bridge Capital and because of that they only led by 6 points, 56-50, entering the fourth and final quarter.

Bridge Capital ultimately lost steam due to their fury

ous rally in the third and went down in double-digit defeat to Ali'i.

Jaymark De Guzman and Arnold Arellano scored 16 points each to lead Ali'i, while old-timer Elmer Esdrelon added 15 points for insurance.

Matt Duenas continued his renaissance, pouring in a game-high 25 markers in the loss.

In the second game, Unity Trade rallied to vanquish Socho, 71-63, in a game they trailed in the first three quarters.

Frank Ferrer fired 22 points, while Ron Esmores chipped

See ALI'I on Page 19



MARK RABAGO  
Ali'i Blue Haus' Jaymark De Guzman stretches for a layup against two Bridge Capital LLC defenders in the first game of the 2023 Michelob Ultra Cup Men's Islandwide Basketball League last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



## Minogue: Games will be delivered successfully



SOL2023.COM  
The 2023 Pacific Games in the Solomon Islands will go on as scheduled with games facilities expected to be ready by the Nov. 19 opening ceremony.

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

that the 17th edition of the quadrennial event will push through as scheduled.

"We were quite impressed with the amount of work that has gone on from November last year to date... We left here (Honiara) November last year, knowing fully well that all the facilities will be handed over to the [Games Organizing Committee] well ahead of time, and I am happy to say that we are still on schedule on getting all of the facilities up and running before the Opening Ceremony on November 19th," he was quoted by the 2023 Solomon Pacific Games website.

National Hosting Authority chair Dr. Jimmie Rodgers also assured the Solomon Islands and the region that all Games preparations are on track and



See MINOGUE on Page 19